OFFICIAL INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING INSIDER

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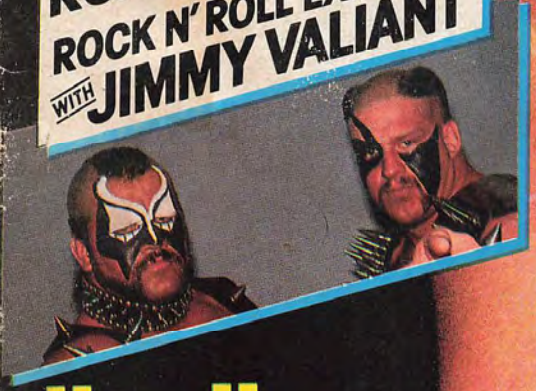
GIANT 2X3 FOOT POSTER OF THE ROAD WARRIORS' "AND THE" ROCK N' ROLL EXPRESS WITH JIMMY VALIANT



HULK HOGAN:
HIS TOP 10 CHALLENGERS

THE FABULOUS FREEBIRDS
ASK WHO'S BETTER?

MAGNUM T.A.
"WHAT DID I DO TO DESERVE THIS ABUSE?"

11
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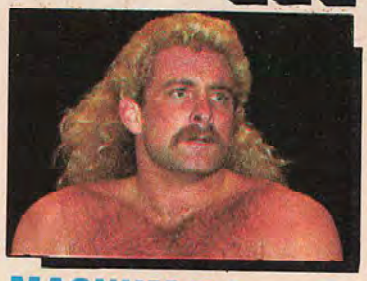
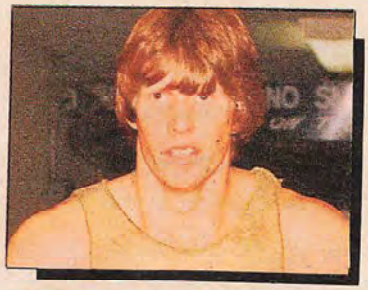


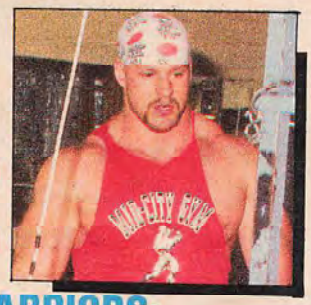
MAGNUM T.A.:
10 Up to date report on your favorite stars What did I do to deserve this abuse?



KEVIN VON ERICH:
16 The Golden Warrior-Tops in Texas

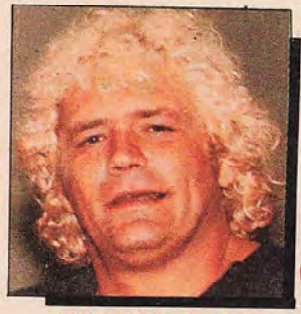
HULK HOGAN:
20 How much longer can the champ survive?

GIANT POSTERS:
THE ROAD WARRIORS & THE ROCK AND ROLL EXPRESS WITH JIMMY VALIANT



42
ROAD WARRIORS:
Working out to be the best

48 **DUSTY RHODES:**
Portrait of a Superstar



54
FABULOUS FREEBIRDS:
"There's no one better"

60
ROCK AND ROLL EXPRESS
Are the Rockers Headed for a Break-up?

E·D·I·T·O·R·I·A·L

FROM THE DESK OF JOE GIARELDI

Wrestling Insider will focus on the thrills and excitement that are an integral part of the fastest growing sport in the world, professional wrestling. It will give the reader a ringside seat to all of the major events throughout the wrestling world as well as take them behind the scenes to see the stars of today up close and personal.

This magazine will include personal profiles of the major stars as well as their most recent bouts, enabling the reader to follow the "soap opera" as it unfolds.

Professional wrestling has no age boundary, nor does it cater to a specific crowd. "Fans" include professional people as well as blue collar and white collar workers. For years, wrestling was not considered "in", yet followers of the sport still turned out by the thousands to see the matches in person all over the world.

Today it's a whole new ballgame. It has become accepted to talk about the exploits of Hulk Hogan, King Kong Bundy, or the Road Warriors. Years ago, people knew about Bruno Sammartino, Killer Kowalski and Buddy Rogers, but their accomplishments weren't discussed in the office for fear of being branded an odd ball. Today, wrestling's not only discussed but dissected daily by millions of people all over the world.

Wrestling has come of age. It's the sport of the eighties, and we will capture this excitement in The Official International Wrestling Insider, the fan participation magazine.

From the publisher,

JOE

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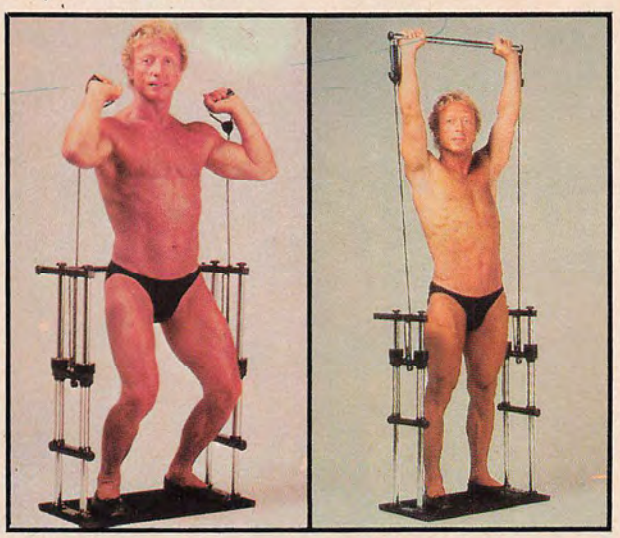

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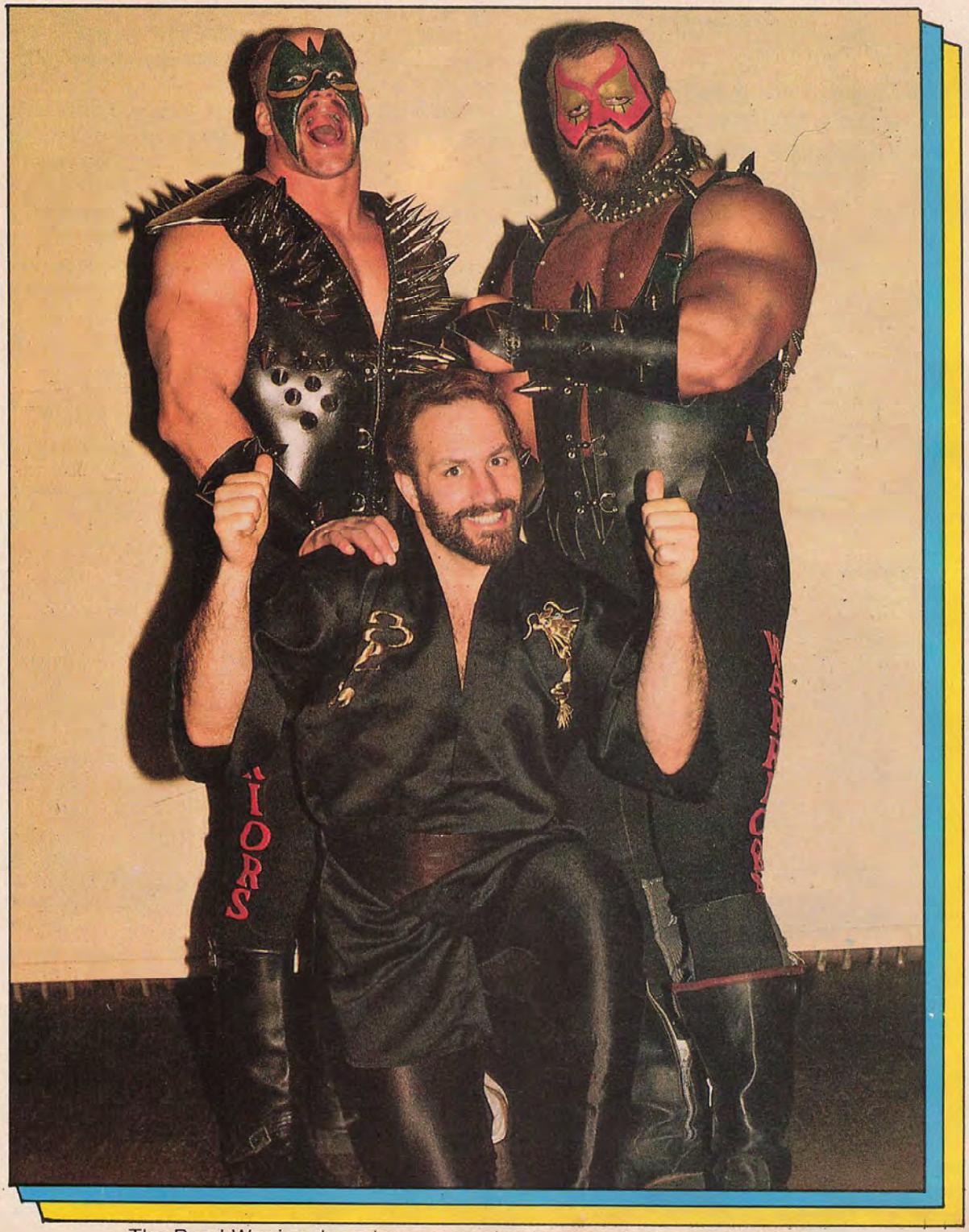
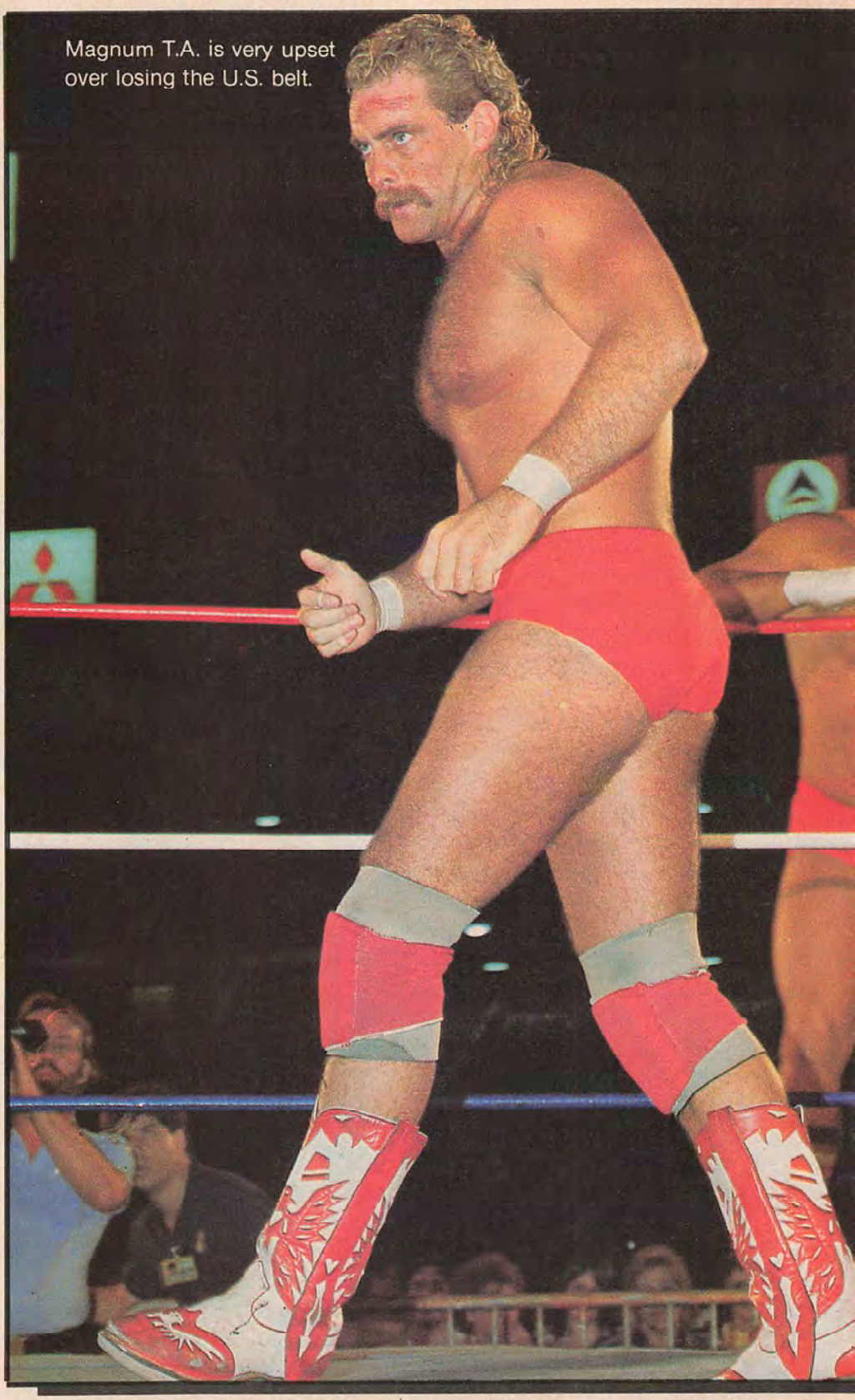


The Road Warriors have been appearing in more singles bouts of late.

This is the premier issue of Wrestling Insider, the magazine dedicated to the true wrestling fan. Inside each issue we will devote space to the various fan clubs and bulletins that dot the wrestling world as well as report on all the happenings in the world of professional wrestling. We want this to be your magazine and as such your input is vital. Please let us know what you would like to see and we'll do our best to get it into print.

If you operate a fan club or know someone who does, please send us all the particulars and we'll pass this information along to our readers. Also, we know that there are quite a few excellent newsletters with information that is of interest to all. If you publish such a paper, send us a copy along with all pertinent information. We'll let the fans become aware of your endeavors. In future issues Wrestling Insider will also print a pen pal section for any one wishing to correspond with someone with similar likes and interests. If you want to be listed in our next issue, send your name and address along with the name of your favorite wrestler, your hobbies and your favorite wrestling territory. Maybe you'll want to exchange information on your favorite with someone in another part of the country.

While on the same subject we want to remind everyone that the WFIA (Wrestling Fans International Association) will be sponsoring its annual convention in Houston, Texas from August 6 to August 9. This would be an excellent opportunity to meet other people who feel the same way that you do about professional wrestling. If you would like to learn more about this great organization address all inquiries to the WFIA, P.O. box 451, Freeport, Il. 61032. Mention that you read about them in Wrestling Insider.



Magnum T.A. is very upset over losing the U.S. belt.

It's hard to believe how much the wrestling world has grown. Today one can sit at home and see wrestling action from all over the country. This was virtually impossible no more than five years ago. Today one is able to see the WWF, the NWA, the AWA, the UWF and WCW on various cable outlets throughout the country in addition to local programming. It's certainly a

boon time for all hard core wrestling fanatics.

Now on to the happenings in the wild and crazy world of professional wrestling. The biggest news centers around Magnum T.A., Terry Allen. The popular Magnum is really upset and for a good reason. He's been stripped of his U.S. Heavyweight title by the NWA and now must square off against Nikita Koloff in a best of seven series to determine the new champion. Magnum isn't upset our having to face Nikita, but he's boiling mad over the fact that he feels he was unjustly stripped of his title. "With all the stupid things Ric Flair has done he's never had his title taken away." Magnum moaned. "But they do it to me. Is that fair?" You can be sure that a real war is brewing.

Incidentally Ric Flair is scheduled to face fourteen different opponents in July during the Great American Bash tour. If the champ is able to escape with his title intact after this grueling schedule he could go down in history as the greatest champion of all time.

Did you catch Hulk Hogan and Vince McMahon when they hosted Friday Night videos. National exposure is great but not when it makes you look like a baffoon! Vince McMahon's get up was just a little bit too much. Wearing sunglasses and riding a motor cycle somehow doesn't jive with his real image. As for the Hulk, he was true to character, brash and bold; an imposing figure none the less.

Terry Gordy, the UWF champion has really come on strong in the last several weeks. Gordy always had tremendous talent but somehow this talent gets lost in tag team matches. Now that he's wrestling in more singles bouts, however, people are really starting to notice what a great wrestler he is. But where does this leave the team of the Fabulous Freebirds? Could they be headed for a split?

Korchenko, Nikita and Ivan Koloff really did a number on Cowboy Bill Watts.

Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson are two of the wildest men in the sport today.

Many people feel the same way about the Rock and Roll Express. Ricky and Robert have been wrestling in more and more singles bouts leaving one to believe that their once great team is headed for oblivion. Both, however, categorically deny that any split is forthcoming.

Meanwhile, Jim Cornette and his Midnight Express continue to reign supreme on the tag team scene. They really are a good team.

Ric Rude, the WCW wrestling champion has been battling Lance Von Erich for the crown. "Cousin" Lance would love to regain the family jewel. Kerry Von Erich is home after a 2 week stay in a Dallas hospital and the popular star continues to make slow but steady progress. Everyone all over the world wishes Kerry a speedy recovery.

"Macho Man" Randy Savage is the best thing to happen to the WWF in years. With Roddy Piper's mysterious absence the Macho Man has more than picked up the slack.

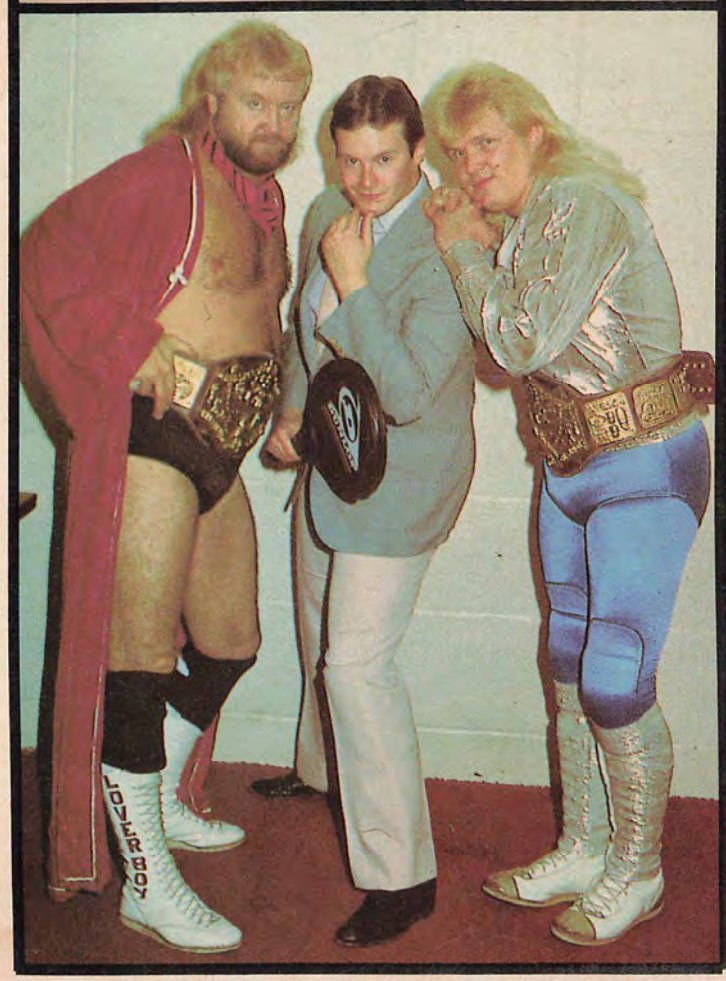
Cowboy Bill Watts enlisted the aid of Dusty Rhodes and Steve Williams to get revenge on Ivan and Nikita Koloff and Korstia Korchenko. And, in the New Orleans Superdome the popular threesome really took care of the bad boys from Russia. In addition, "Hot Stuff" Eddie Gilbert got the whipping of his life when the popular cowboy knocked the stuffings out of the loud mouth Gilbert. After his beating, Hot Stuff will definitely think twice before he ever tries to double cross Bill Watts again.

The Midnight Rockers, Shawn Michaels and Marty Janetty have really looked sharp in recent AWA outings. The rockers are now hoping to knock off Playboy Buddy Rose and Pretty Boy Doug Sommers for the AWA tag team title.

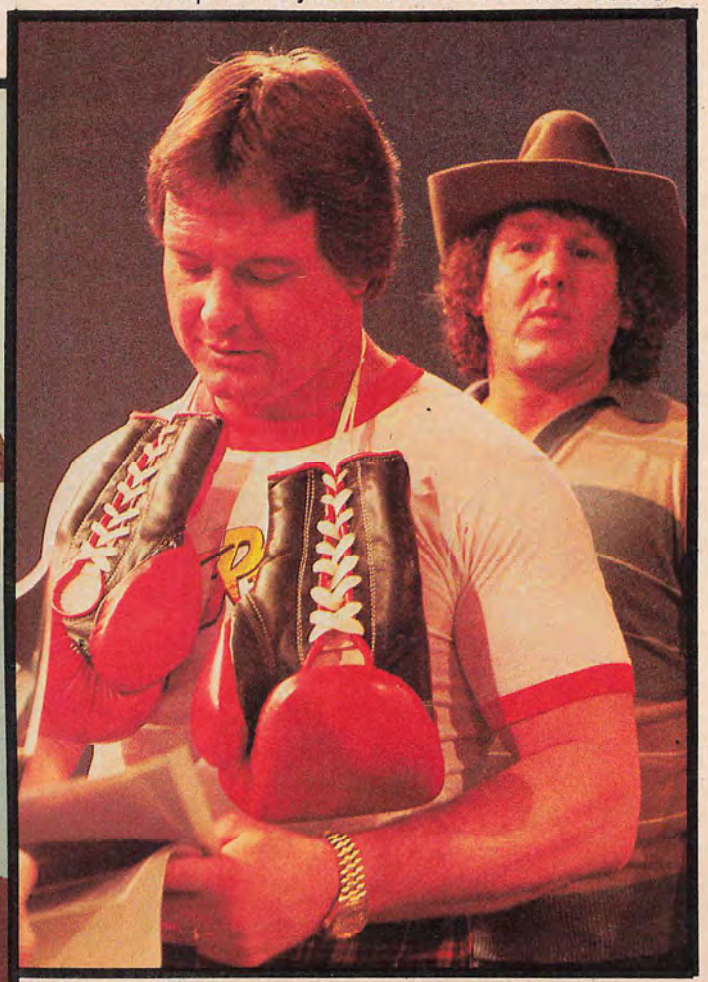
Since returning from Japan the awesome Road Warriors are also wrestling in more and more singles bouts. What's happening to the tag team scene?

In closing we would like to remind everyone that this is your magazine. Please send all fan club bulletins, newsletters, clippings or any pertinent information to Wrestling Insider. We want to become your number one magazine.

"Hands of Stone" Ronnie Garvin is feuding with Tully Blanchard.



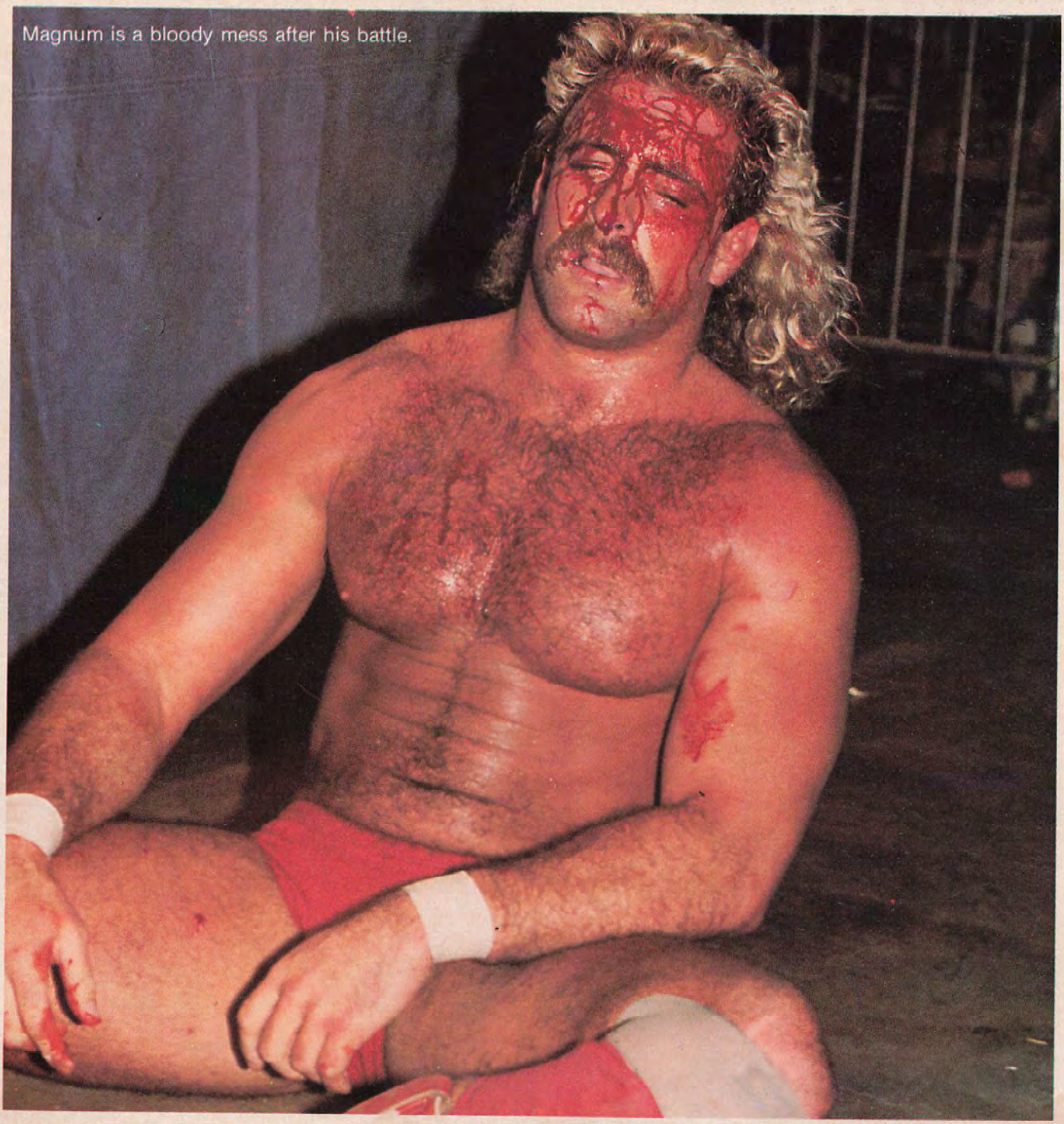
Roddy Piper has been conspicuously absent from the WWF scene.



The Midnight Express, with Jim Cornette are the number one tag team today.

MAGNUM T.A.

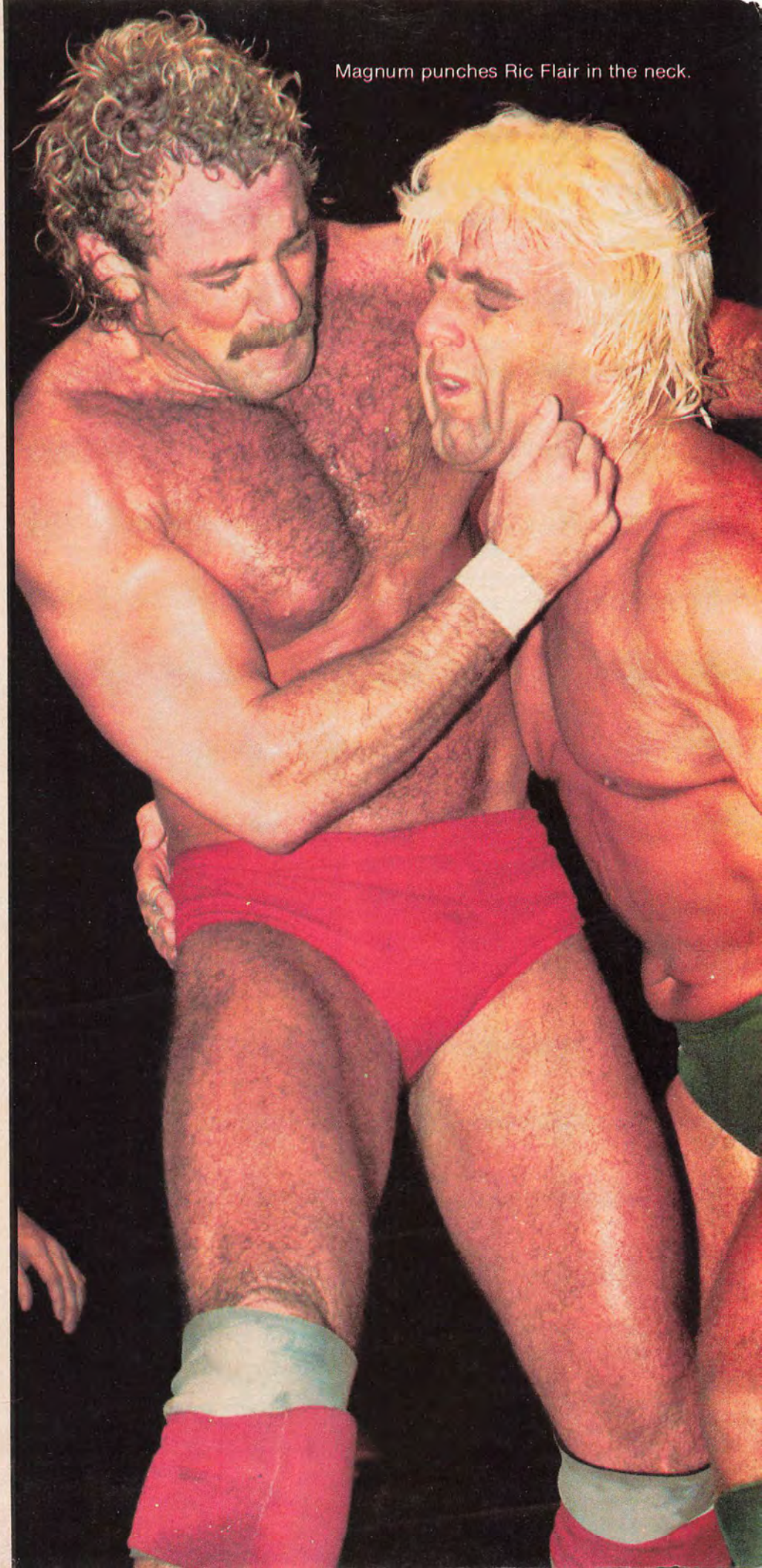
By Marty DiVito



Magnum is a bloody mess after his battle.

Stripped of his Title!

What's Next for the Popular Superstar?



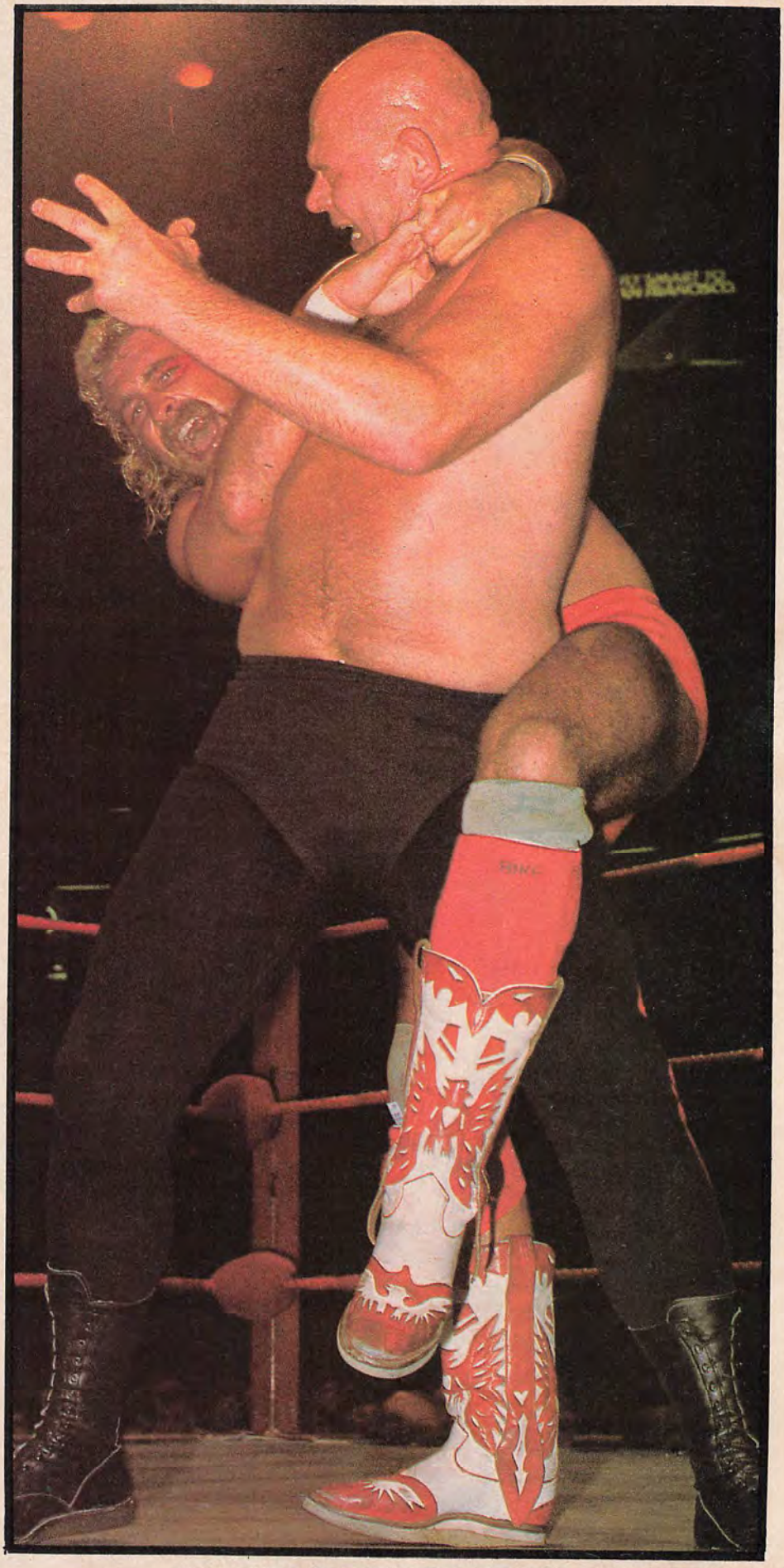
Magnum punches Ric Flair in the neck.

Magnum T.A. Terry Allen, has really been having his problems of late. The ever popular Magnum has been battling Ric Flair, Arn Anderson, Tully Blanchard, the Koloffs and Jim Cornette and the Midnight Express night after night all over the country. It seems that no matter where he goes Magnum T.A. is confronted by yet another enemy. In addition to these men Magnum now feels that the entire National Wrestling Alliance is against him. "What am I supposed to do?" Magnum questioned prior to a match in Houston. "It's bad enough when you have to watch your back constantly because of guys like Ric Flair, Arn Anderson, Tully Blanchard and the Koloffs but now I

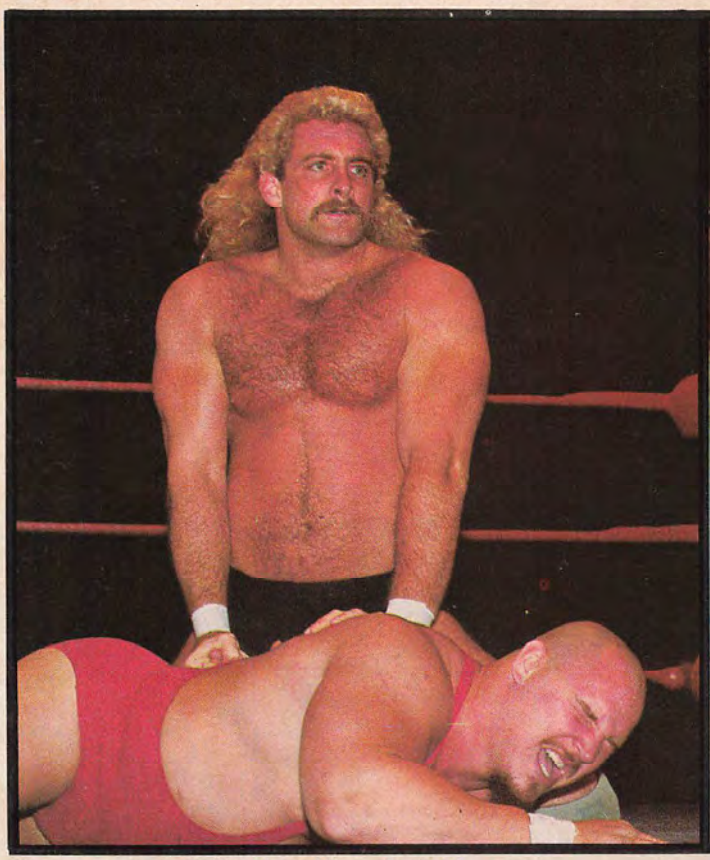
find that even the National Wrestling Alliance is against me. What did I do to deserve this?"

Magnum T.A. is very upset over a recent turn of events involving himself and Nikita Koloff. The powerful Russian stalked Magnum from one end of the U.S. to the other in hopes of winning the prestigious U.S. Heavyweight title. Their battles have been waged inside a steel cage, with lumberjacks around the ring and even in a ring enclosed by barbed wire. Although the Russian came very close to lifting the title on numerous occasions, after every bout the powerful Magnum always managed to leave the arena with the U.S. Heavyweight belt still in his possession. Today, however, Magnum is devastated as the U.S. Heavyweight belt has been taken away by the NWA for "conduct unbecoming a champion."

The incident that led to the NWA stripping Magnum of the title occured during a press conference between Magnum and Nikita Koloff. Magnum had agreed to defend his U.S. belt on television against Nikita Koloff, but unfortunately Magnum brought his mother along to witness the contract signing. During the press conference the Russian began to belittle Magnum's mom. Irate, Magnum viciously attacked Nikita Koloff. The champ tore into the Russian with a vengeance. They tussled for several minutes before Magnum and Koloff were finally separated. The following week NWA president Bob Geigel summoned Magnum to appear at NWA headquarters. Geigel told Magnum, "The Board of Directors of the National Wrestling Alliance has reviewed an incident that took place during a press conference for contract signing between U.S. Heavyweight champ Magnum T.A. and

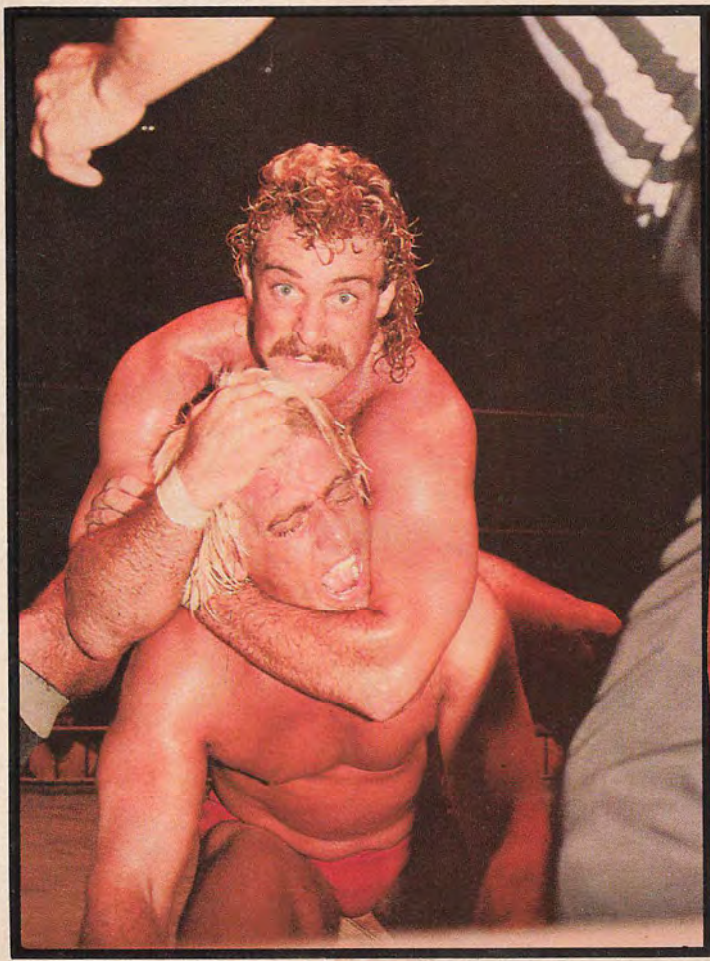


Magnum has Baron Von Raschke in his abdominal stretch.

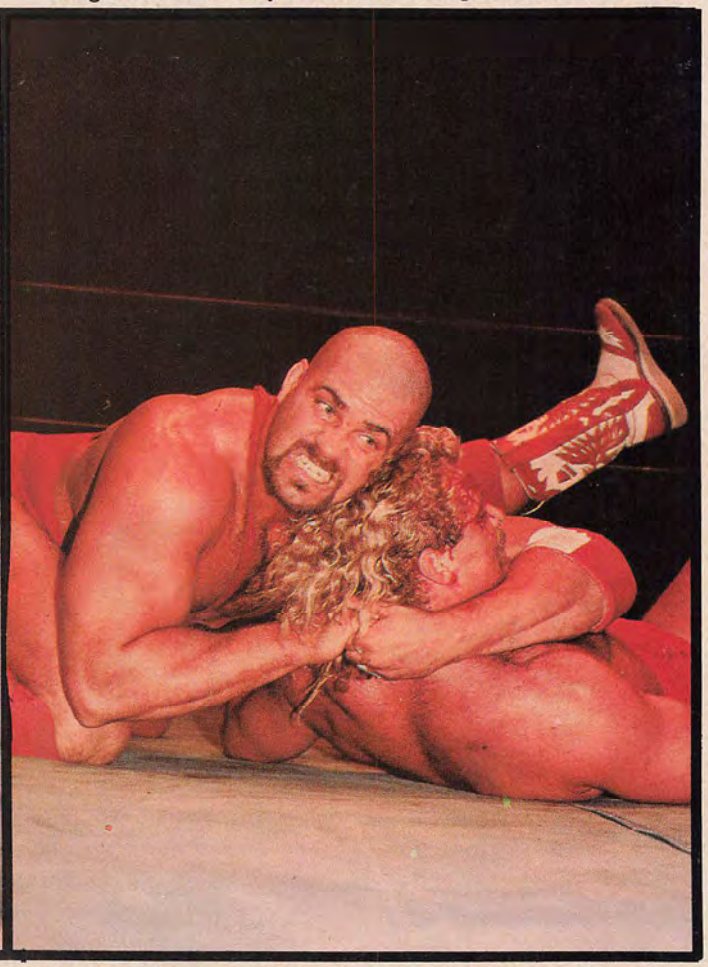


Magnum twists Krusher Khrushchev's arm.

Magnum and Tully Blanchard slug it out on the floor.



Magnum catches Ric Flair in his sleeper hold.

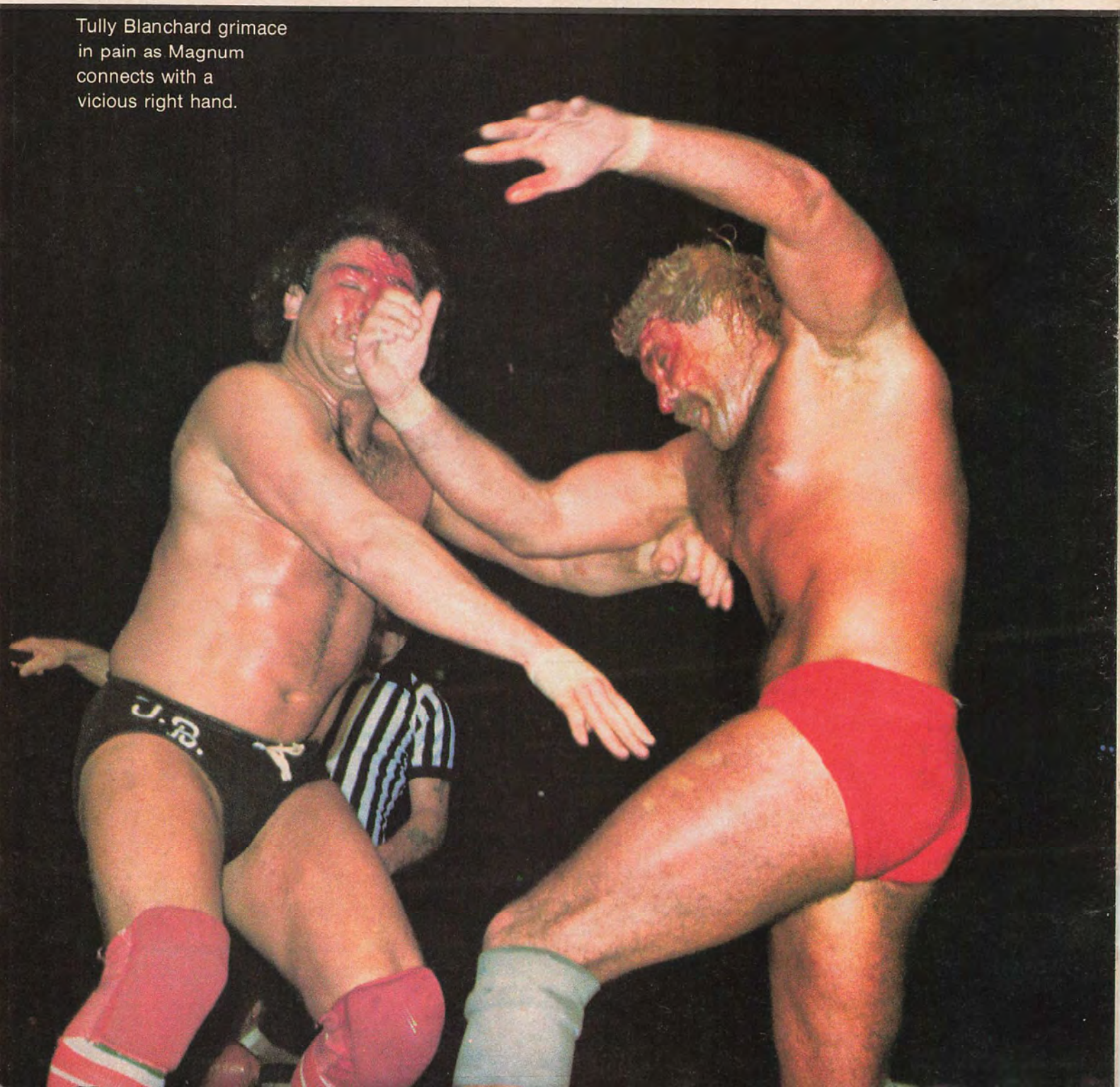


Nikita Koloff chokes the life out of a badly beaten Magnum T.A.

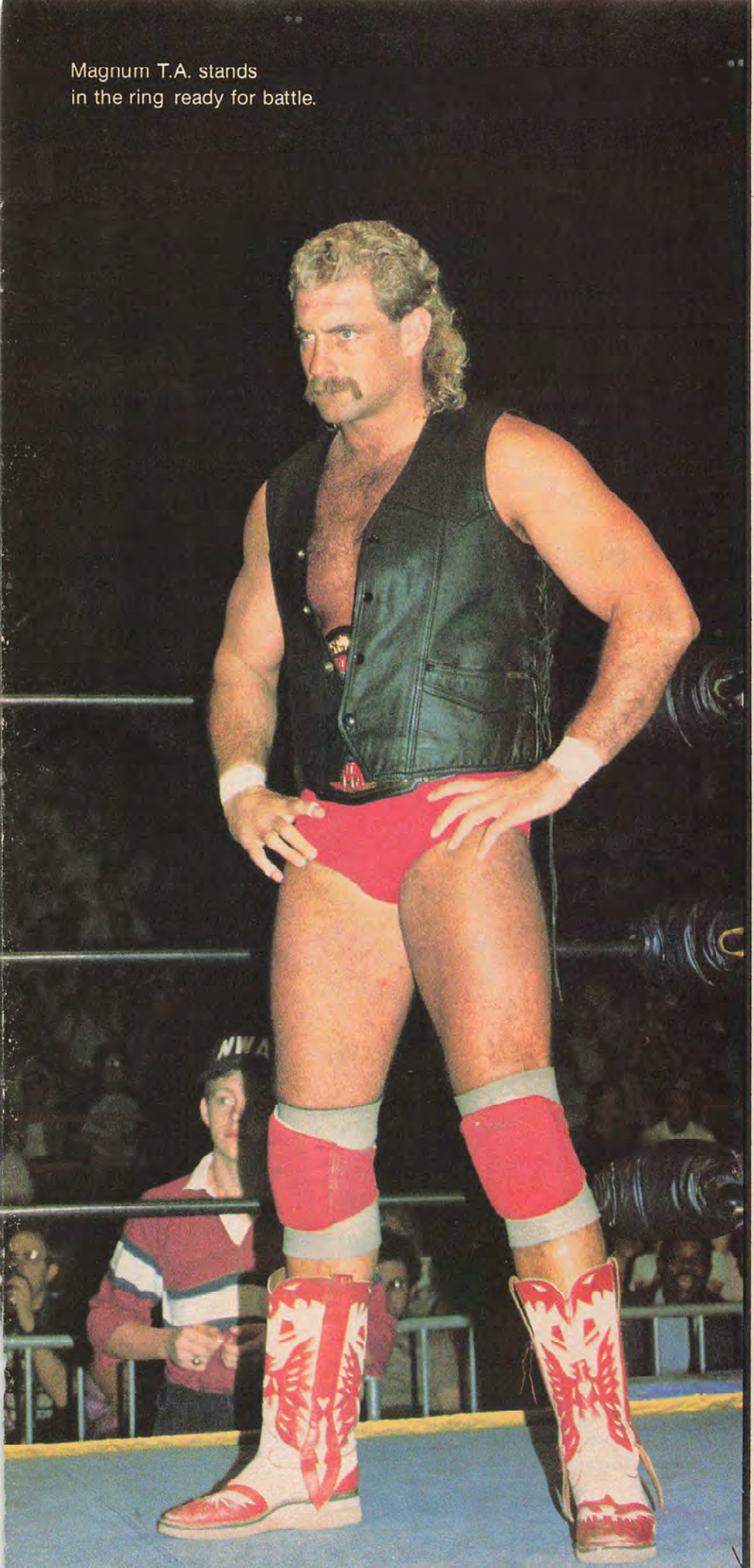
challenger Nikita Koloff. A majority of the Board of Directors feel that the conduct of Magnum T.A., the U.S. title holder was not in accordance with the standard of conduct that the National Wrestling Alliance would expect from a champion. There will be no suspension, but for the record let it be noted that this is an official reprimand to Magnum T.A. for conduct unbecoming a champion." Hearing this Magnum was stunned. His reply to President Geigel was very strong. "Forget about the U.S. championship. Forget about the whole NWA. This is my mom here. This is family. That's different. It's got to deserve some other consideration. What would you have done if it would have been your mom out there? Tell me that!"

Geigel's reply was to the point. "The U.S. champion is to conduct himself at all times. Let that be noted." With that Magnum shouted, "let this be noted," and he hauled off and viciously smacked the president to the ground. As Geigel rolled on the ground Magnum just turned around and calmly walked off as if nothing had happened.

After the vicious assault President Geigel stated, "Magnum T.A. received an official reprimand for his conduct and at the time of his notification his action taken against an official representative of the NWA leaves the Board of Directors no other option than to strip Magnum T.A. of



Tully Blanchard grimace in pain as Magnum connects with a vicious right hand.



Magnum T.A. stands in the ring ready for battle.

the U.S. title for action unbecoming a champion, effective immediately!"

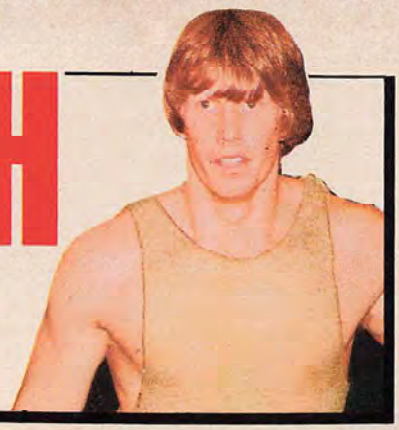
After Magnum was stripped of his crown, Ivan and Nikita Koloff claimed the title by default, but their claim to the title was not sustained. "The title has to be won in the ring," promoter Jim Crockett stated. "As Nikita Koloff is the number one challenger and Magnum T.A., the former champion. The two will meet in a best of seven series with the winner crowned the new U.S. champion."

Magnum T.A., however, is still upset over the entire situation. "There is no reason why I should have to win back my title. I should never have lost the title in the first place. When Ric Flair, along with his gutless cohorts Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard viciously attacked Ricky Morton and broke his nose the NWA didn't say anything to him. They should have stripped him of his title for actions unbecoming a champion. What about the time Flair, along with the Andersons broke Dusty's leg. What happened then? Nothing again! There's definitely a conspiracy against me and I have to believe Ric Flair is behind it in some way. If he wasn't, then how come he still has his title while I don't have mine. But it's ok. I'll beat Nikita four straight and win back my title"

The month of July is going to be a very crucial one for Magnum T.A. If the power Magnum can regain the U.S. title he will then be in line for another World's title showdown with Ric Flair. But if by some twist of fate Nikita Koloff wins the U.S. belt, Magnum T.A.'s career could be at an end. Magnum's millions of admirers, however, are hoping that this wil not happen.

KEVIN VON ERICH

All Around Good Guy

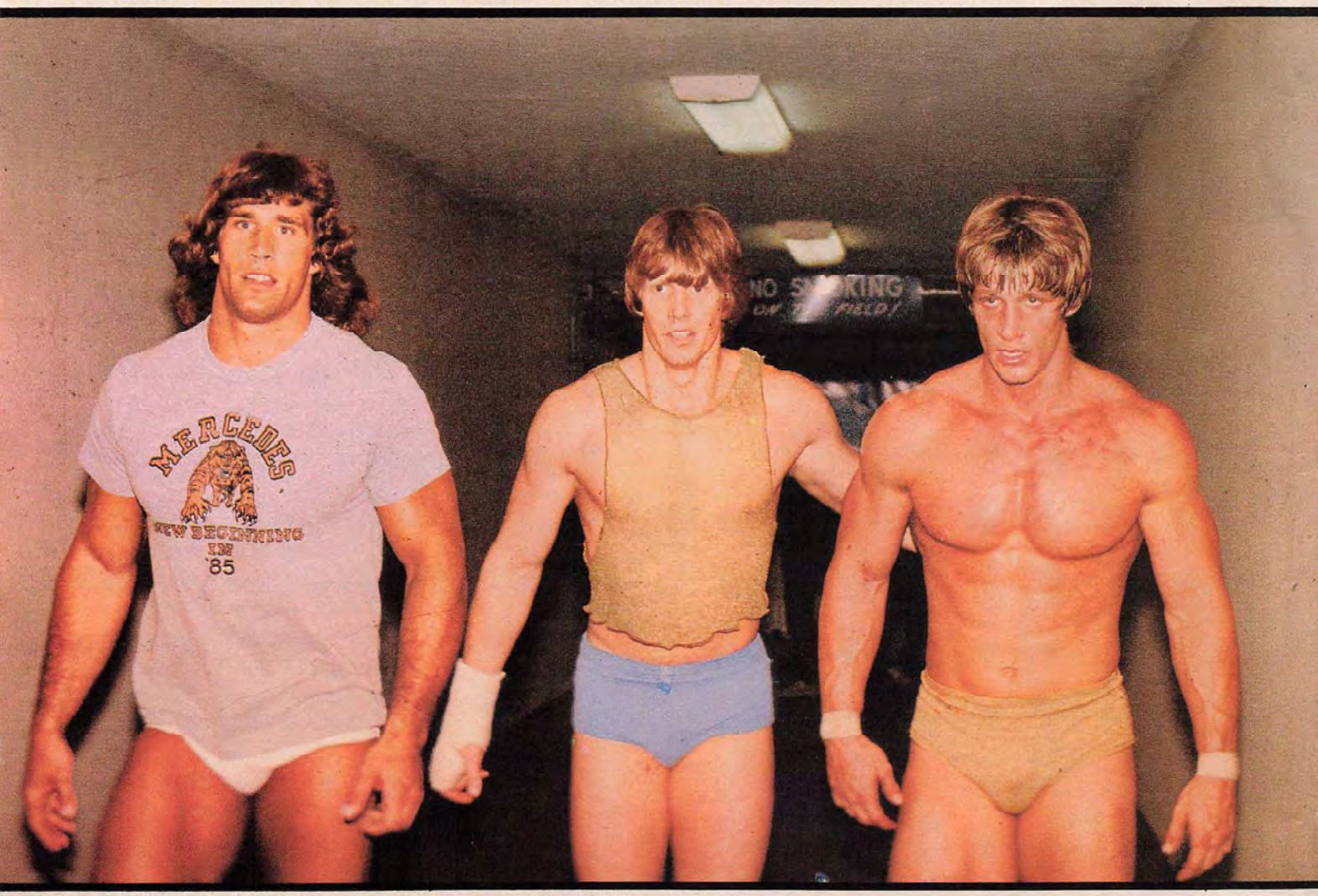


by Carolyn Jackson

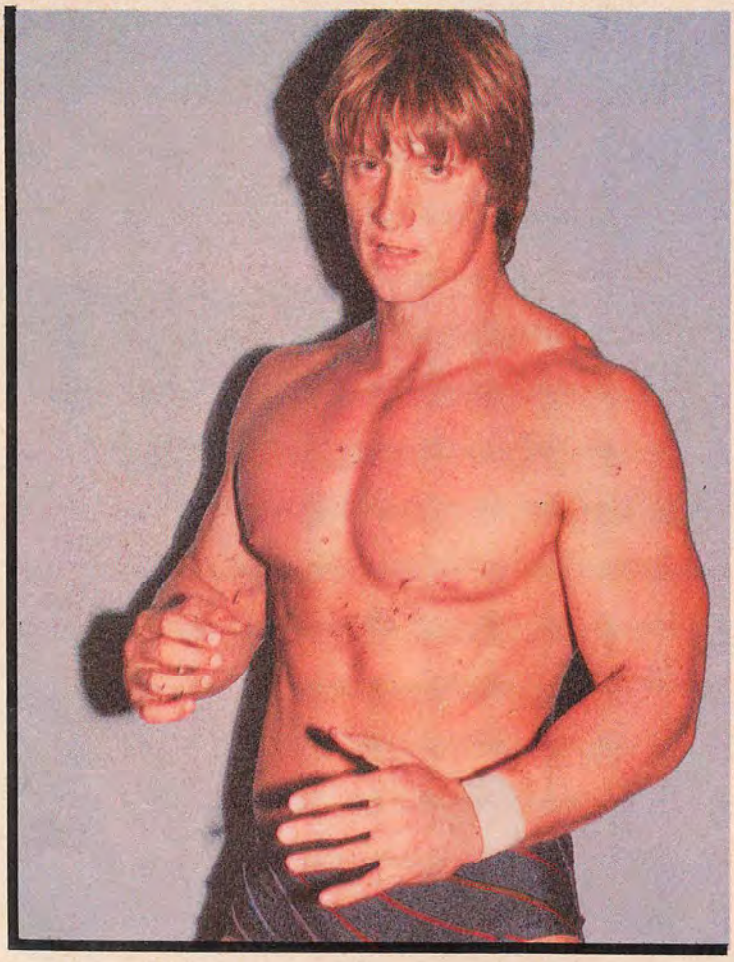
Anyone lucky enough to beat the last name Von Erich is guaranteed fan-favorite status in the hearts of wrestling fans everywhere. As the mainstay of the World Class Wrestling Association, these guys are nothing short of a family of superstars.

There is always at least one Von Erich to headline the cards of the World Class promotions. There is one Von Erich, however, who stands slightly apart from the rest of the family. Not the most popular, the strongest, or even the best looking, Kevin Von Erich is easily the most talent professional wrestler in his family. Unparalleled aerial expertise and lightning fast agility have enabled Kevin to successfully develop and pursue a trademark style all his own. Having the name Von Erich doesn't hurt, but his super wrestling ability is what attracts legions of wrestling fans from all over the country to his matches.

Von Erich is the perfect example of the classic long, tall, Texan, both physically and conceptually. Lith, lean, and with a physique you could hang a blue ribbon on,



The brothers; Kerry, Michael, and Kevin are quite a close family.



Kevin Von Erich is one of the most popular stars today.

Kevin's strength doubles up his opponent.

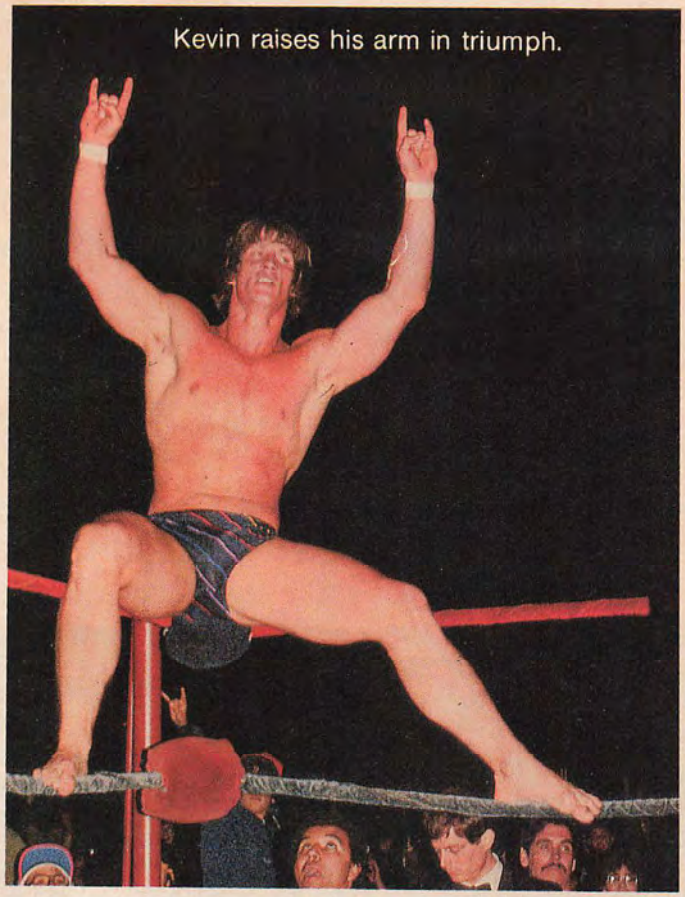
when Kevin vaults over the top rope his fans are assured of his giving 100%. According to the Golden Warrior, he gives his all because he's a Von Erich and that's just the way they do things. And, though Kevin travels extensively, he seems to enjoy nothing better than wrestling at home and being close to his family and most ardent fans.

Barefoot wrestling is probably Von Erich's most recognizable trademark. During a recent radio interview he replied to a fan's question as to why he wrestled this way by saying that it was hard to explain, except that he feels quicker and more alert and can move better without the traditional wrestling footwear. I've always suspected that Von Erich's barefoot style had something to do with balance and coordination and less to do with growing up barefooted in Denton county. Whatever Von Erich's reason is to showing his ankles, it works.

Kevin Von Erich's lower body strength has made the man somewhat of a legend in his time and allowed him to develop wrestling techniques that other wrestlers only dream of. It's a well known fact among his potential adversaries that the eldest brother in the Von Erich clan is an expert at the reversal of the figure four leglock and that "off of the top rope" is simply another Von Erich byword. Whether somersaulting out of armbars or taking down his opponents with his high-flying head scissors, Kevin is one of the sport's top flight competitors.

Watchful fans cannot fail to note the sense of humor that Kevin carrier into the ring on occasion. An adversary locked in the main squeeze (Kevin'g body scissors) is sure to get his hair ruffled a time or two and he once told Freebird

Kevin applies his sleeper hold on Ric Flair



Kevin raises his arm in triumph.

Kevin has Ric Flair trapped on the ropes.

Buddy Roberts to quit pulling his tights or he'd jerk Robert's wig off for the fans.

A fast pace is a prerequisite for Von Erich's wrestling style. He keeps both his opponents and his fans dazzled as he explodes in the ring — 240 pounds of pure dynamite in every match! The past year has seen a slight change in Kevin, although in his case it's not so much a change as a progression. He doesn't seem to rely as much on the Von Erich claw as he does on his own natural ability. Make no mistake, he uses the claw at times, but it's been a while since it's been polished up and paraded around the ring. He uses it sparingly and seems to be aware that his claw is most effective when he applies it abdominally.

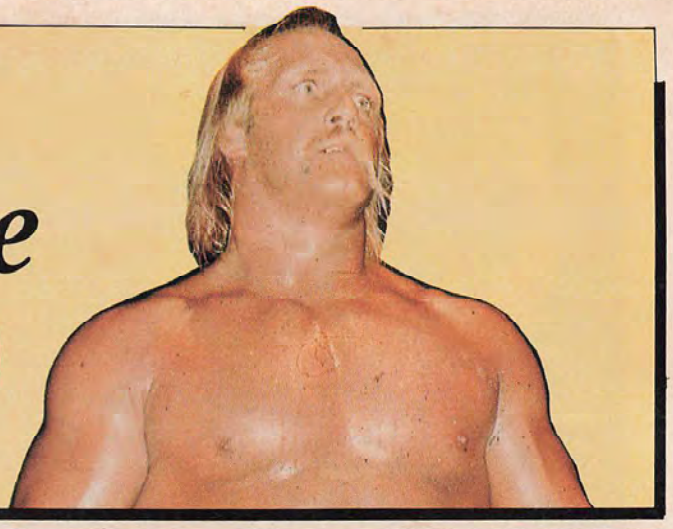
It is a shame that the recent withdrawal of the WCWA from the NWA will preclude Kevin Von Erich's getting another shot at the NWA World title. He would make a fine champion. There is, however, no shortage of capable competition for a wrestler of Von Erich's calibre, as the WCWA boasts some of the finest grappling talents to be found.

In addition to being known for his prowess in the ring, Kevin Von Erich is also acclaimed for the work he does for various charities in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. His specialty seems to be working with sick and underprivileged children. The appearance that he made, along with his brothers, Sunshine, and WCWA official David Manning on the Easter Seals telethon this year resulted in numerous and hefty donations being contributed by area wrestling fans to that very worthy cause.

One of the questions Kevin's fans are asking these days is how he feels about Chris Adams since Chris' dramatic philosophy reversal. Kevin is slow to answer that one and doesn't really seem too eager to embrace the friendship that once bound these two together as honorary brothers. Kevin recalls that ambulance ride to the hospital and the pain he felt after Adams cracked his head open with a chair at the Cotton Bowl two years ago. Chris claims to be a changed man, and to have his priorities straight once again. The fans in Texas are willing to forgive him and let him have his chance to prove himself worth of their support. Can Kevin Von Erich forgive his one time best friend turned worst enemy? Only time will tell.

Kevin Von Erich is an all around good guy; clean-cut, clean-living, and with wrestling ability that puts him into an elite class. Kevin fights clean, but he can get down and brawl with the worst of them if need be. Never backing down from a fight, Von Erich is a sure thing for an exciting wrestling match on any given night. Texas loves a hero, especially when it's a home-grown one.

Can Anyone Defeat the HULK?

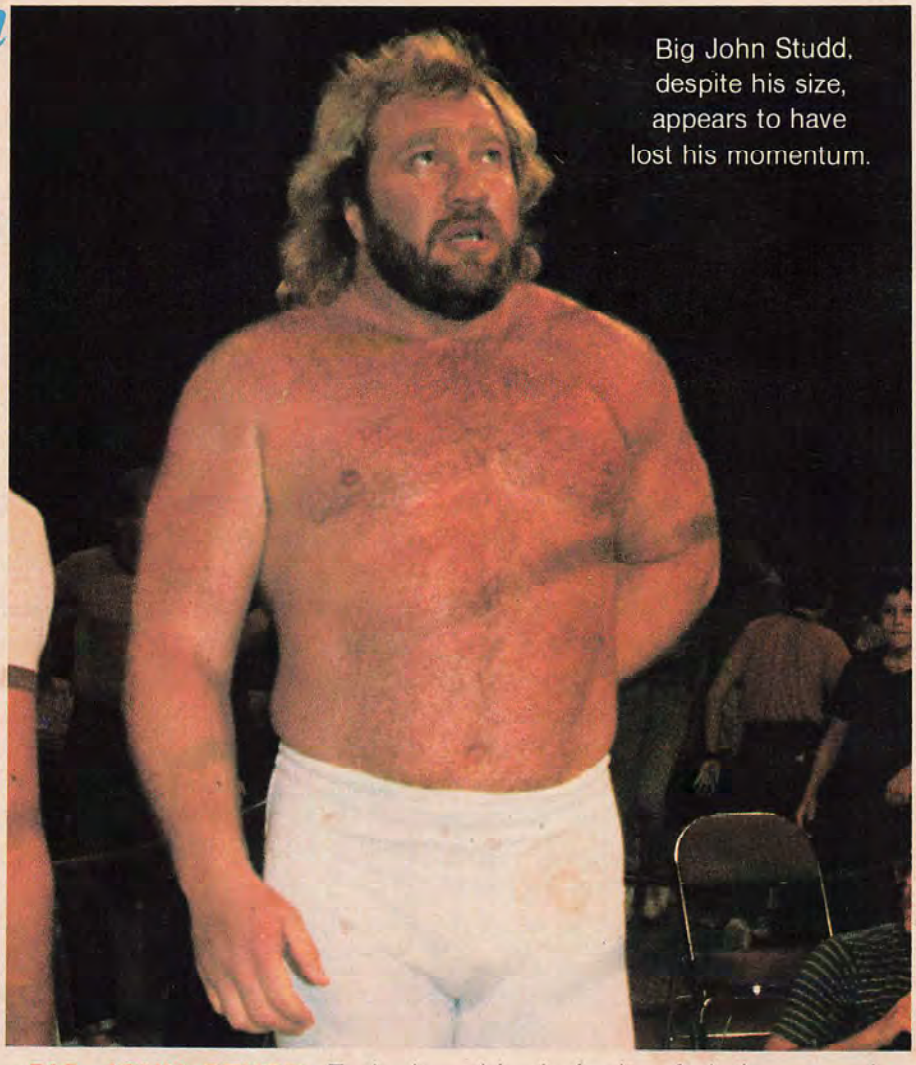


A Look at the Top Ten Challengers for the Hulk's Crown

By Jerry Scotti

Ever since Hulk Hogan captured the WWF Heavyweight championship, his critics have speculated at just how long he could retain the belt, in light of all his outside activities. Critics also cite a lack of endurance and limited scientific abilities. These remarks have persisted, even though Hogan has undeniably turned back the challenged of some of the top stars in the sport.

Following is a breakdown of the top ten challengers for the Hulkster's title, and a brief summary of their strengths and assets as compared to the champ. This list is not arranged in any particular order but is intended to promote discussion on who Hogan's successor might possibly be. You may agree or disagree with the statements included, but they represent honest opinions about the top contenders for the WWF belt.



Big John Studd, despite his size, appears to have lost his momentum.

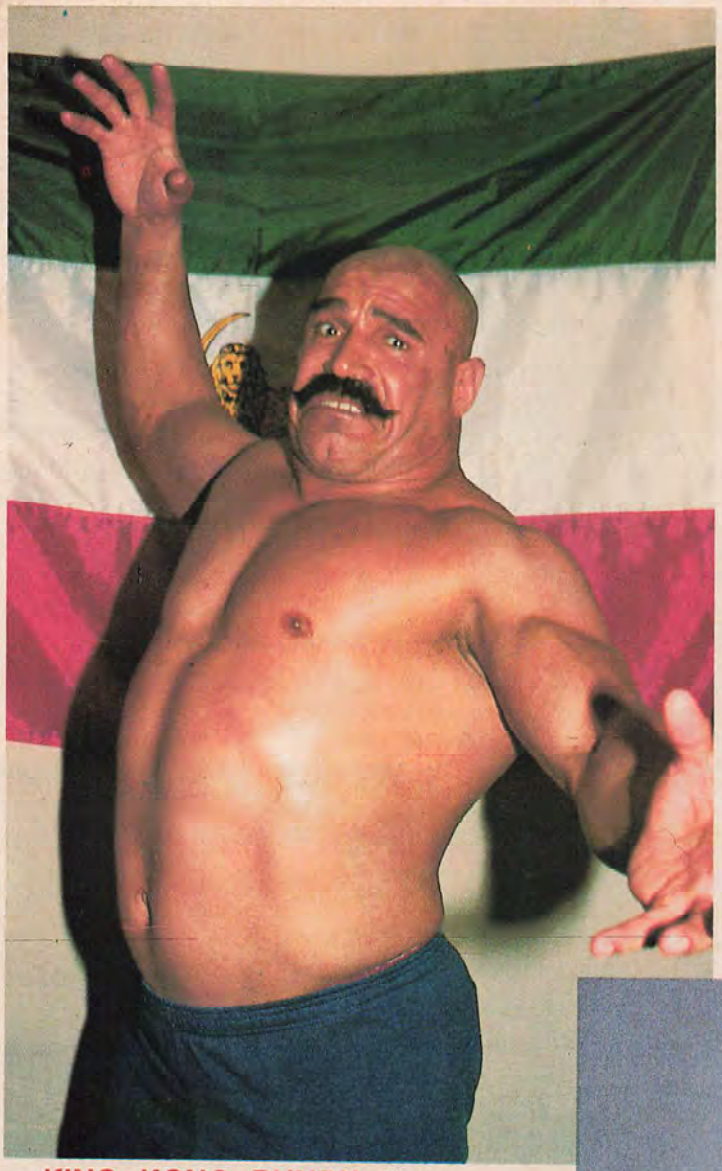
BIG JOHN STUDD Early in Hogan's championship reign, Studd gave the champ all he could handle, even beating him via countout in several bloodbaths throughout the country. Since then, Studd's championship desire has faded away as he has become more concerned with Andre the Giant and less enthused about the title. With his physical attributed, he could still give Hogan a tough battle, but his drive is now all but gone.

"Macho Man" Randy Savage is another tough competitor.

RANDY "MACHO MAN" SAVAGE Since winning the Intercontinental Championship, Savagee has concerned himself totally with Tito Santana, and not with Hulk. Before winning the belt, Savage came close on several occasions to upending the champ, but his arrogance and massive ego got in the way. He is now more concerned with his image and with Elizabeth, than he is with his wrestling. Besides, Savage has the Intercontinental title to worry about. Don't expect him to go after the Hulk's title any time soon.

MAGNIFICENT MURACO The Oriental style of Muraco, combined with his excellent wrestling talent, make him a top contender. He has given Hogan tough battles in the past and hung in there, after taking massive doses of punishment. Muraco was also a top challenger when Bob Backlund held the crown and still has an outside chance to upend the champ. Add the guidence of Mr. Fuji to Muraco's arsenal and the Hawaiian is as deadly as they come. But as far as wearing the Hulk's crown, Muraco's best days are behind him.

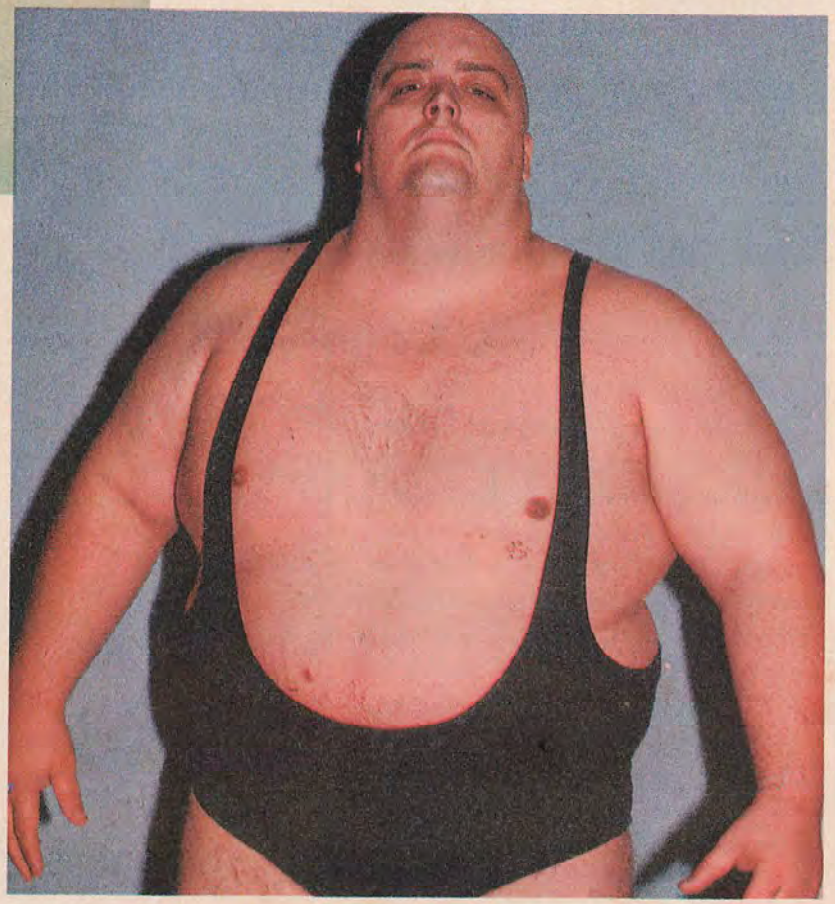
Magnificent Muraco was a top competitor but lately he's been having his problems with Pedro Morales and others.



The Iron Sheik is a former WWF champion.

IRON SHEIK You can never discount the man Hogan beat for the title, as the Sheik is still the most talented wrestler in the WWF, bar none. His vast array of amateur moves and suplexes make him an unpredictable foe who could easily score a pinfall on the champ. The Sheik possesses great endurance, which is a credit to the Iranian since Hogan rarely goes more than nine minutes without getting winded. If the Sheik can get a match with the champ and outwrestle him for 10 minutes and then clamp on the Camel Clutch, it could be lights out for Hogan. Talent-wise, the Iron Sheik has the best chance out of all the contenders of beating the champ, but he's stuck in a dead end battle with Nikolai Kolkoff against Corporal Kershner. He should forget about this and concentrate on the champ instead.

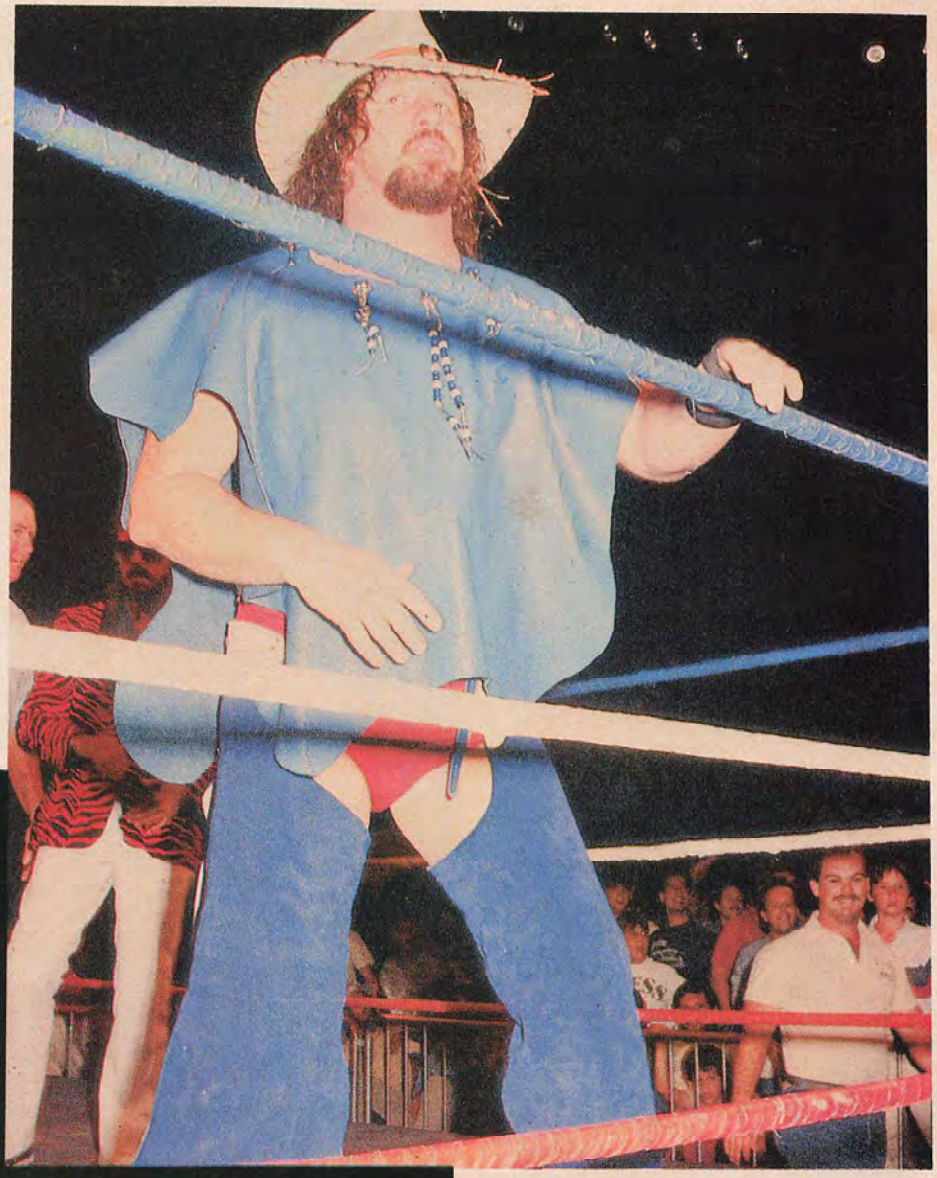
KING KONG BUNDY Since losing to Hogan in the cage match at WrestleMania II, Bundy seems to have lost his hunger for the title. His matches are still showcases for his awesome moves, but the fire in his eyes has died down. He seems to have lost interest in following up on what he started. Like his partner John Studd, Bundy is more concerned with Andre the Giant than with Hogan, but that comes as a surprise to no one since Bundy has always had a lack of drive and sustaining interest in title pursuits throughout his career. With recent flare-ups with Studd, one has to wonder how long they will remain together, and if they don't, there go two more men for Hogan's list.

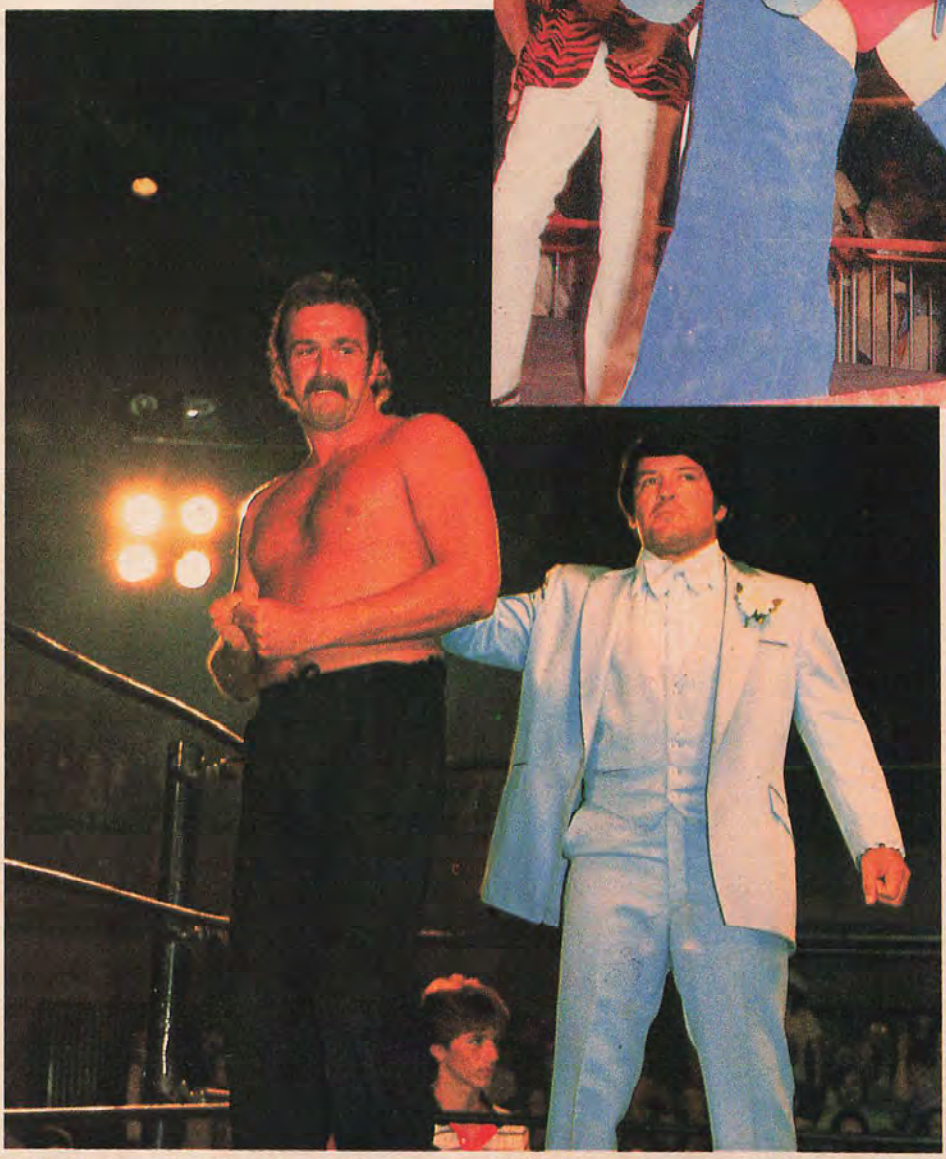


King Kong Bundy is simply awesome.

"Terrible" Terry Funk is another very tough challenger.

TERRY FUNK The former NWA champ is not what he used to be after countless knee operations and a lengthy absence from the ring. Like other challengers, Funk is too concerned with another wrestler, in his case, Junkyard Dog, to devote the necessary time to a championship challenge. Funk is as tough as they come but he will not become champion unless he abandons his feud with JYD.



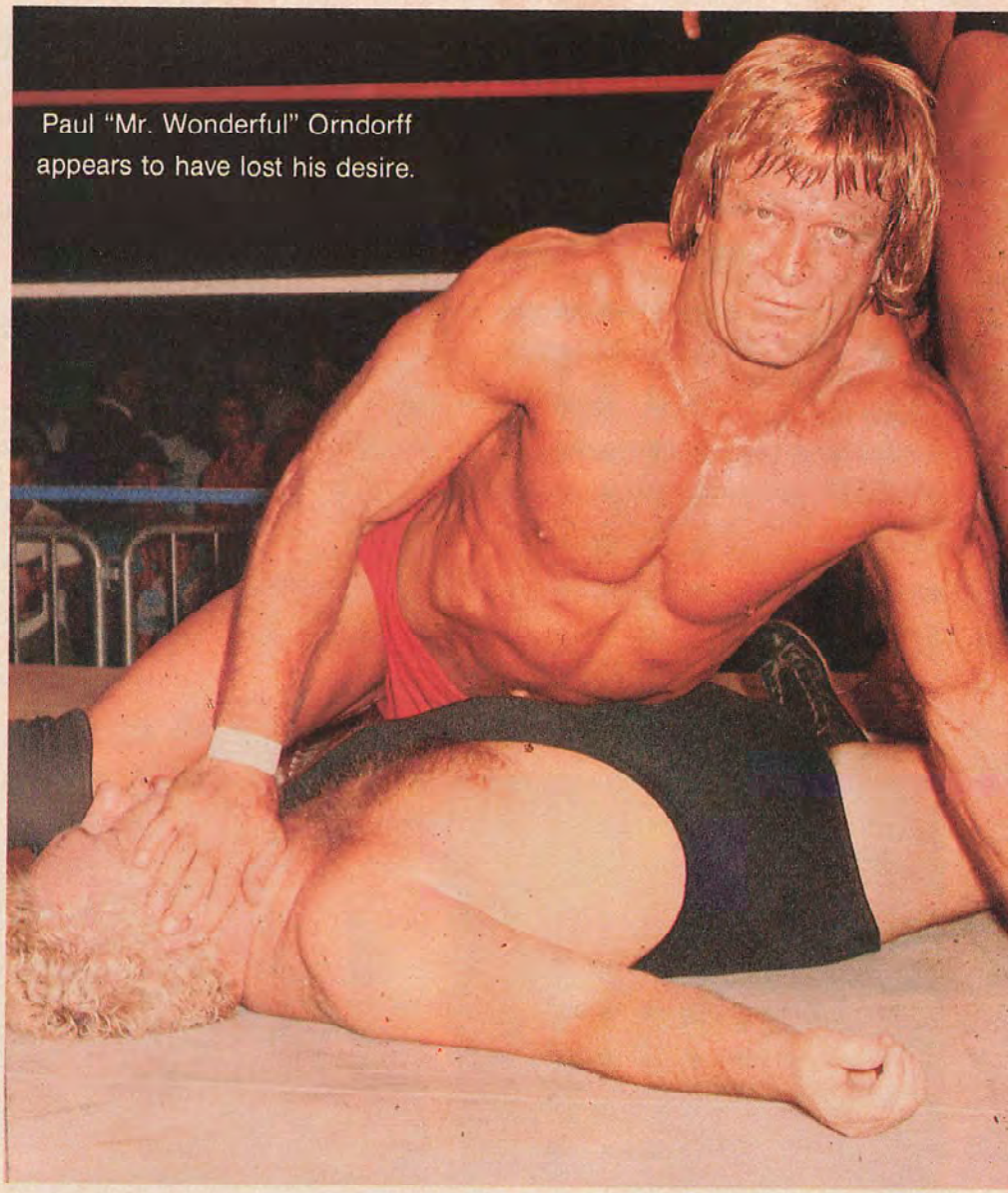


JAKE "THE SNAKE" ROBERTS This WWF newcomer brings with him a unique wrestling style and impressive championship credentials. Roberts is tough, mean, talented and hungry for a title. Add the intimidation he creates with his snake, Damien, and you have one man anxious to beat Hogan. Unfortunately, he is too absorbed with Ricky Steamboat to think about Hogan but once he gets over his obsession with Steamboat, Roberts will go after the champ and maybe slither his way to the top.

Jake Roberts could give the champ a run for his money.

PAUL ORNDORFF Although he and Hogan are friends, Orndorff deserves recognition for his tremendous talent and scientific wrestling ability, which could quite easily overpower the champ.

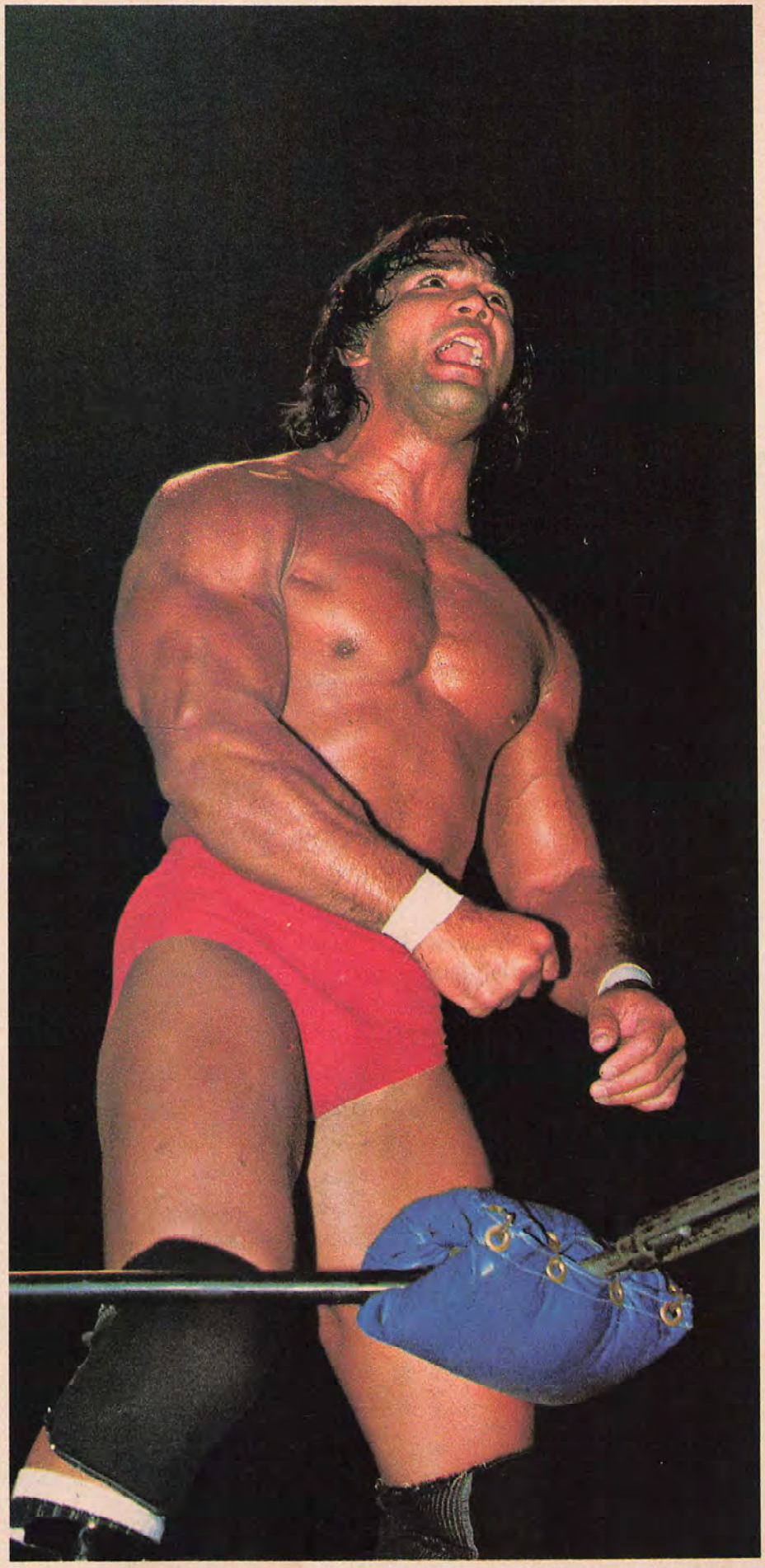
When he was a villain, Orndorff relied on brawling to get by, which was disastrous since Hogan is a master at that. If he should actually wrestle the champ, Orndorff might become champion sooner than you think. His drive is weakening, but given the opportunity, he could catapult himself into contention again.



Paul "Mr. Wonderful" Orndorff appears to have lost his desire.

Harley Race has the best chance of dethroning the Hulk.

HARLEY RACE Now that the seven-time former NWA Champion is in the WWF full-time, he is a top pick to beat Hogan. Race has forgotten more wrestling than Hogan will ever know, in addition to the fact that Hogan never beat Race via pinfall, when Race was NWA Champion and Hogan was a challenger. The Kansas City brawler can fight with the best of them and if he stays healthy and hungry, he has an excellent chance to become WWF champion. Another plus in Race's column is his reunion with former friend Bobby Heenan. Together these two evil geniuses will definitely make life miserable for Hogan.



"The Dragon" Ricky Steamboat is one of the best wrestlers today.

RICKY STEAMBOAT Like Orndorff, Steamboat deserves mention due to his impressive record, even though the WWF would never sanction a match between Hogan and another fan favorite. If the Hulk were not champion, Steamboat would probably have the best chance at the title, because he is one of the best pure wrestlers in the sport. His martial arts tactics, however, tend to deter from his outstanding ability. One on one, Steamboat could defeat Hulk Hogan in a wrestling match, but don't look for this to happen.

There are other men waiting in the wings, like "Adorable" Adrian Adonis, Greg Valentine, Nikolai Volkoff, Brutus Beefcake, Tito Santana and countless others, but the previously mentioned ten individuals are the top choices to give the Hulk a tough battle for the WWF crown. It remains to be seen who will defeat Hogan, but rest assured, some day he will lose the belt. It's happened to champions before and it will happen again. It's inevitable. Right now, one of the previously listed challengers could someday end up wearing the prestigious WWF heavyweight championship belt.

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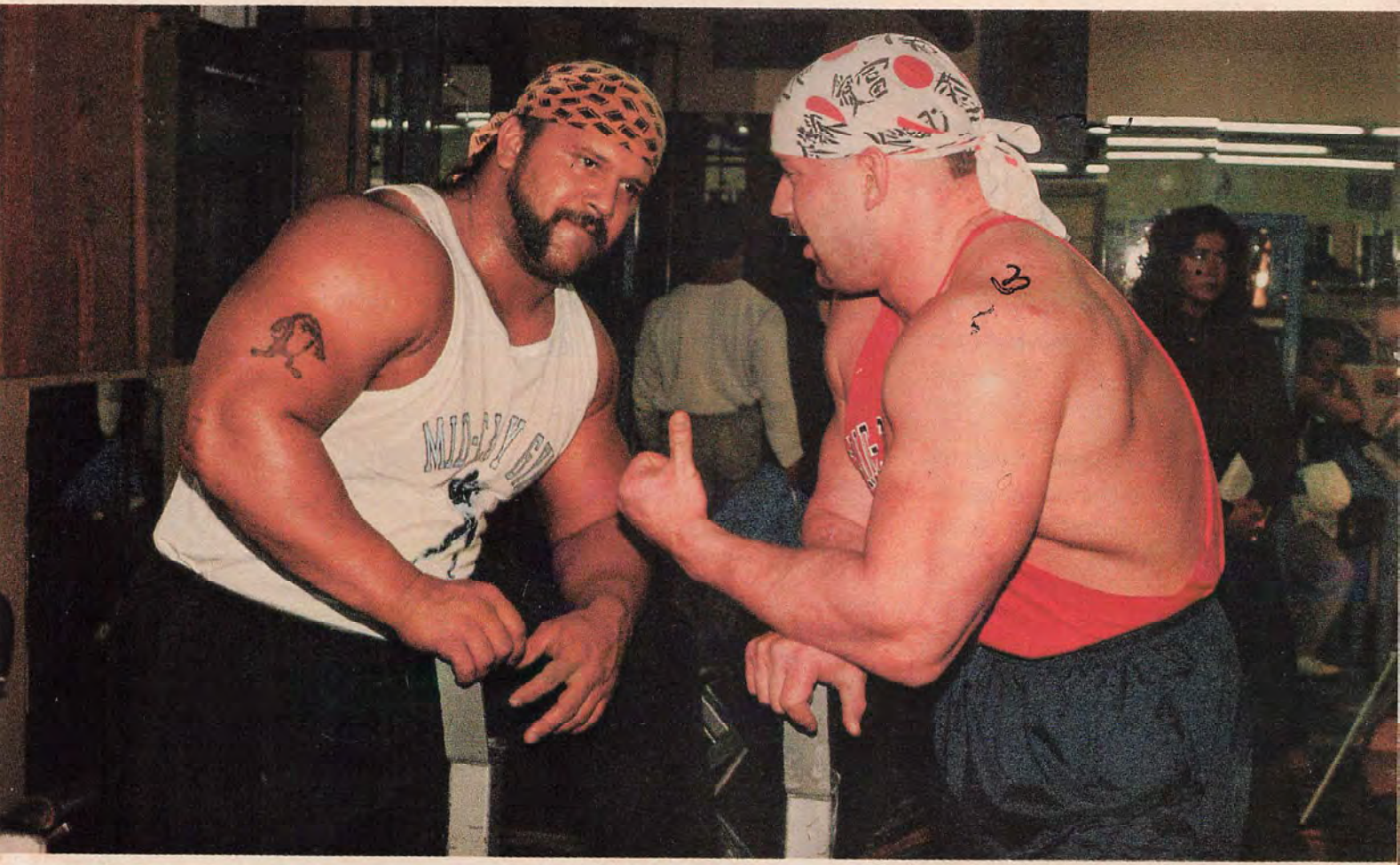
Lonnie Hanover

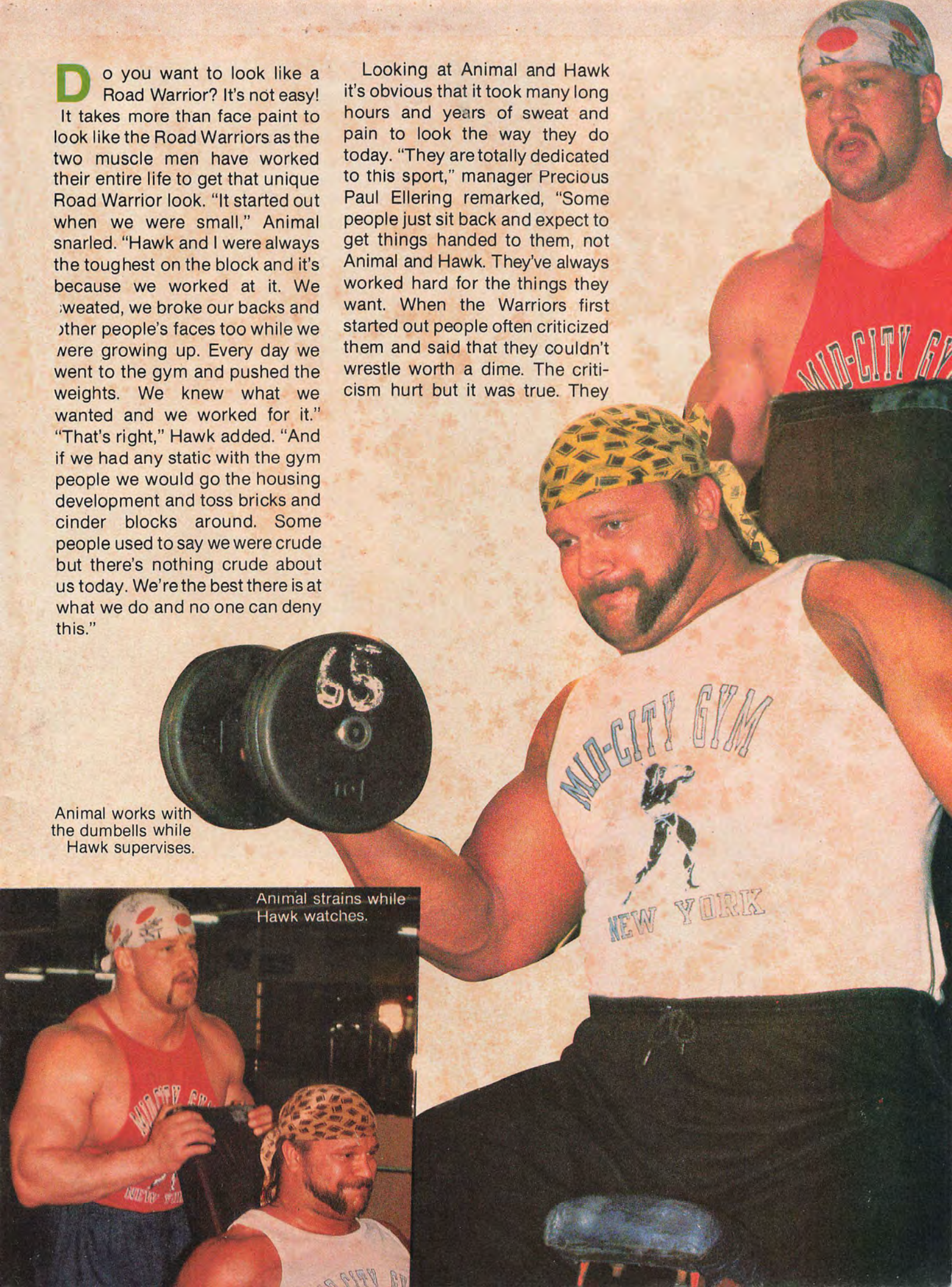


Animal and Hawk discuss their routines.

Spend a day in New York's Mid City Gym with the hottest Team in wrestling!

Do you want to look like a Road Warrior? It's not easy! It takes more than face paint to look like the Road Warriors as the two muscle men have worked their entire life to get that unique Road Warrior look. "It started out when we were small," Animal snarled. "Hawk and I were always the toughest on the block and it's because we worked at it. We sweated, we broke our backs and other people's faces too while we were growing up. Every day we went to the gym and pushed the weights. We knew what we wanted and we worked for it." "That's right," Hawk added. "And if we had any static with the gym people we would go the housing development and toss bricks and cinder blocks around. Some people used to say we were crude but there's nothing crude about us today. We're the best there is at what we do and no one can deny this."

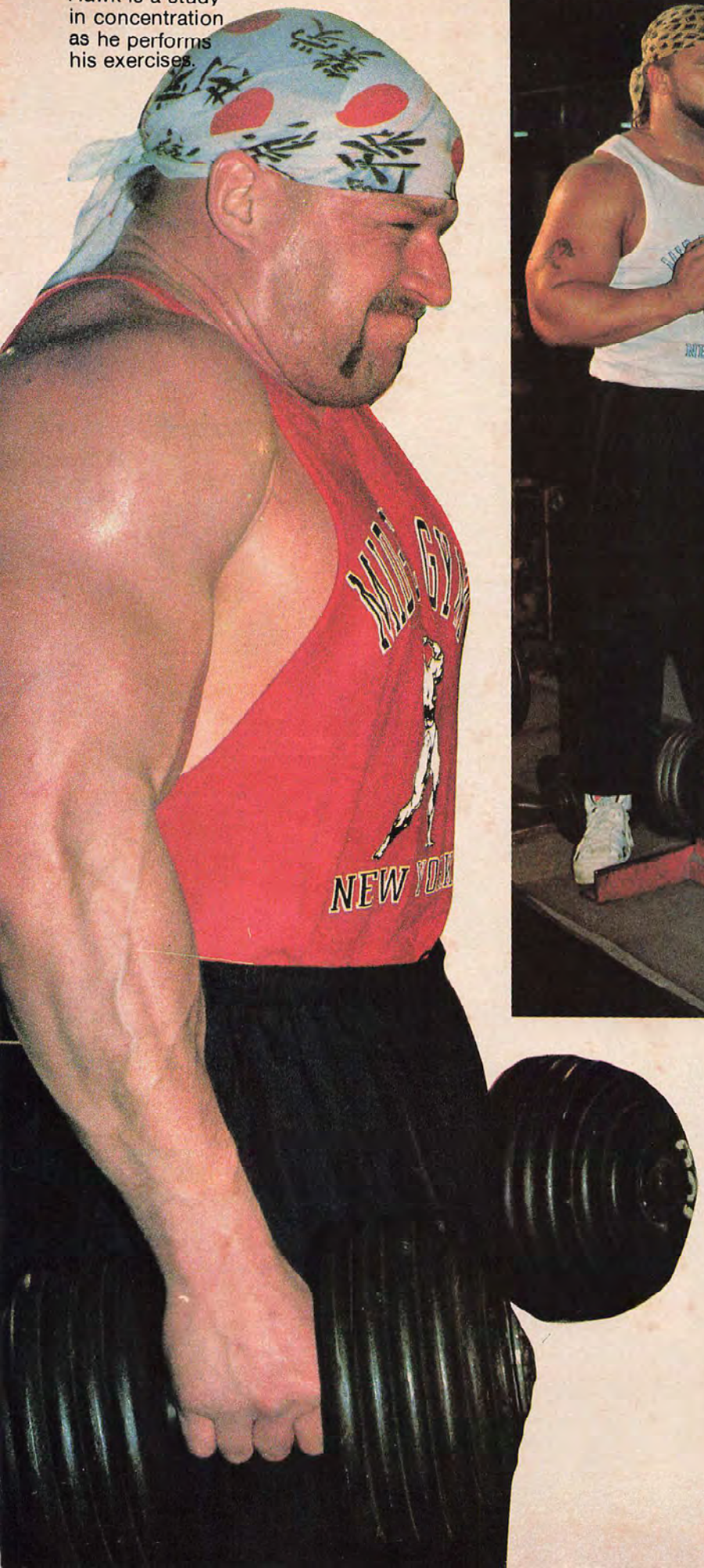
Looking at Animal and Hawk it's obvious that it took many long hours and years of sweat and pain to look the way they do today. "They are totally dedicated to this sport," manager Precious Paul Ellering remarked, "Some people just sit back and expect to get things handed to them, not Animal and Hawk. They've always worked hard for the things they want. When the Warriors first started out people often criticized them and said that they couldn't wrestle worth a dime. The criticism hurt but it was true. They

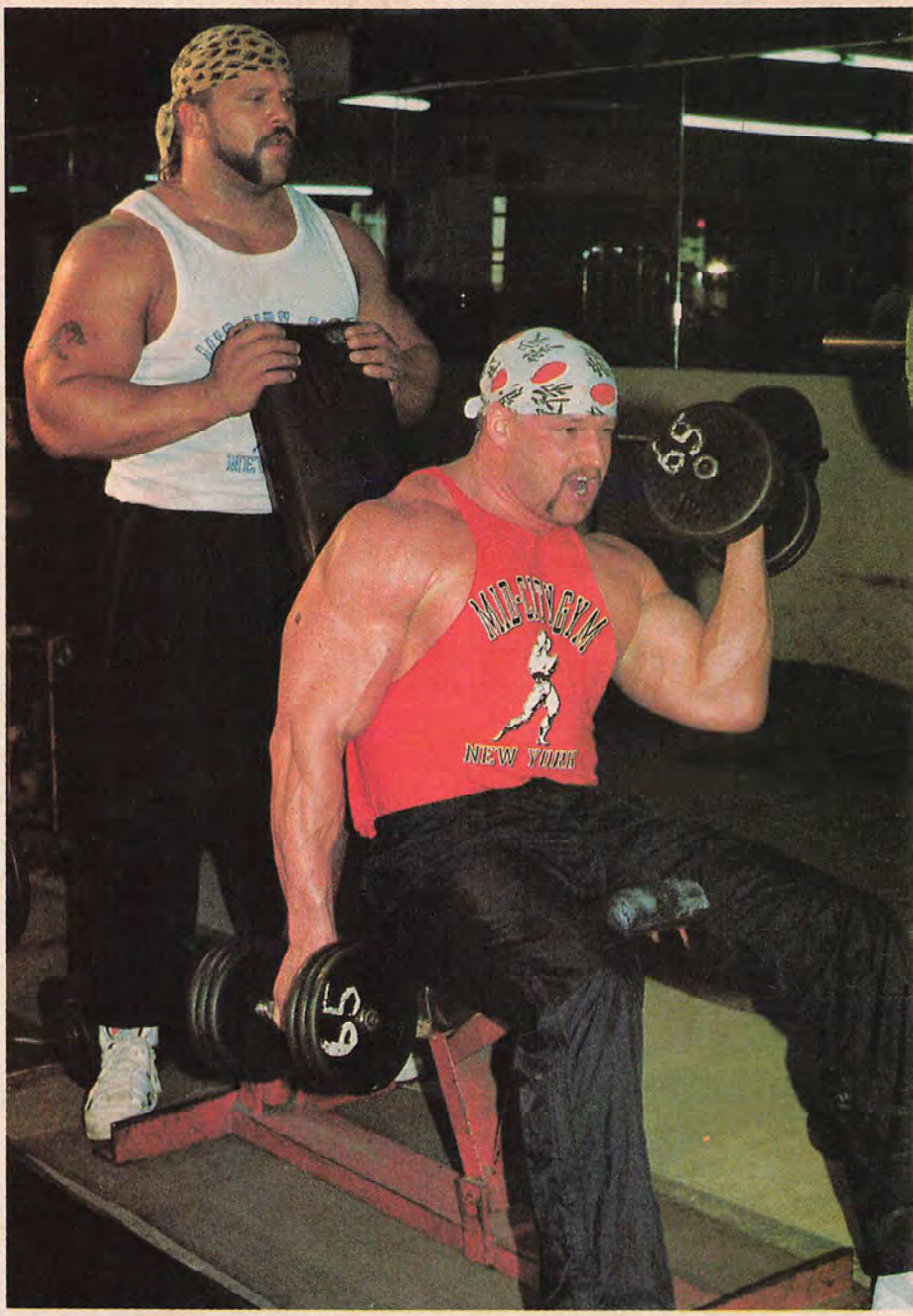


Animal works with the dumbells while Hawk supervises.

Animal strains while Hawk watches.

Hawk is a study in concentration as he performs his exercises.

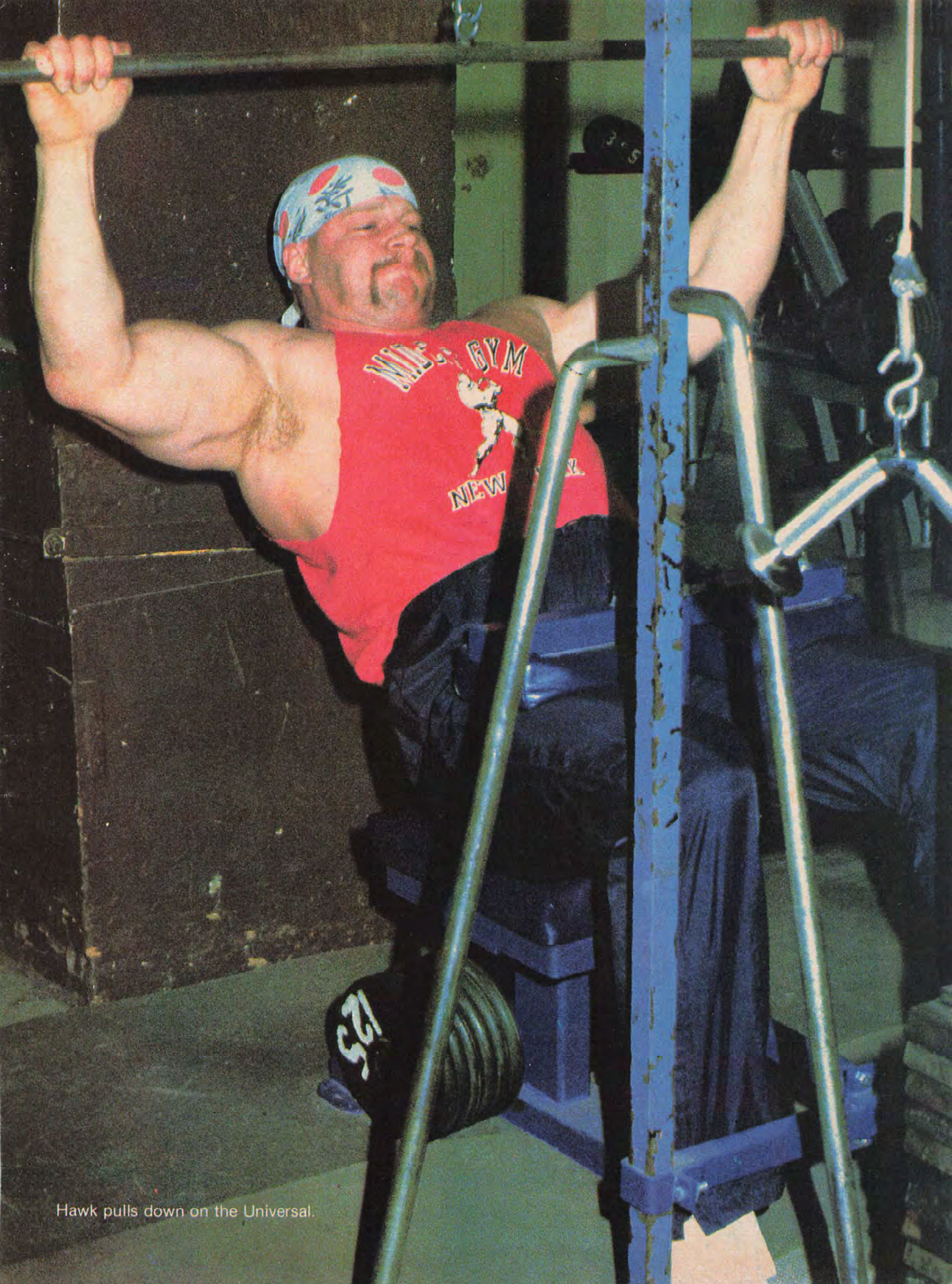




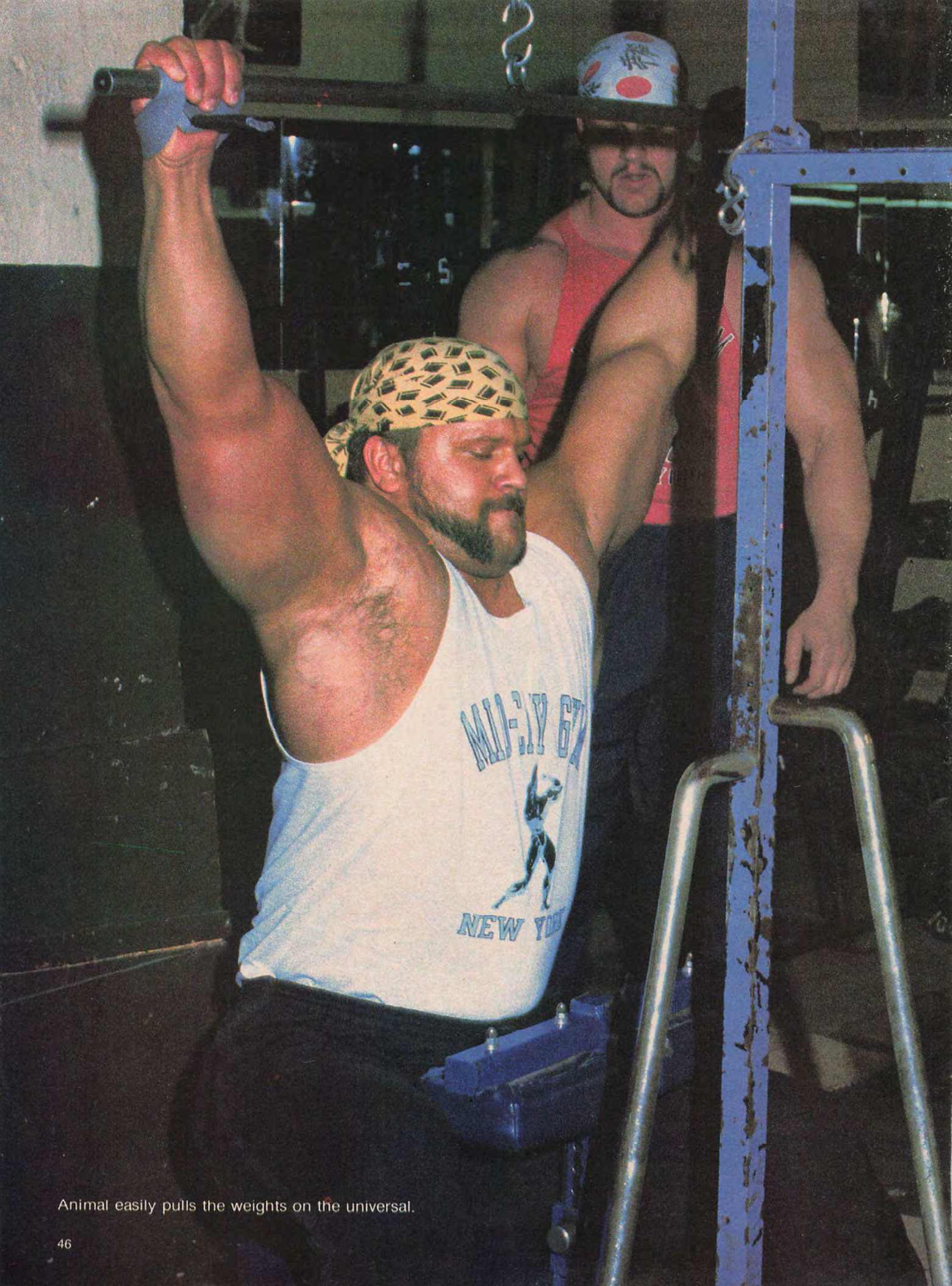
Hawk performs his routines.

knew it too and worked had to overcome this knock against them. Now you don't hear anyone saying this, do you? Animal and Hawk are the two most dedicated men in the profession."

With the constant traveling that they do it's not easy keeping their bodies in shape, but the Road Warriors make it a point to visit a gym every day no matter where they go. "Of all the cities we wrestle in, this is our favorite," Animal



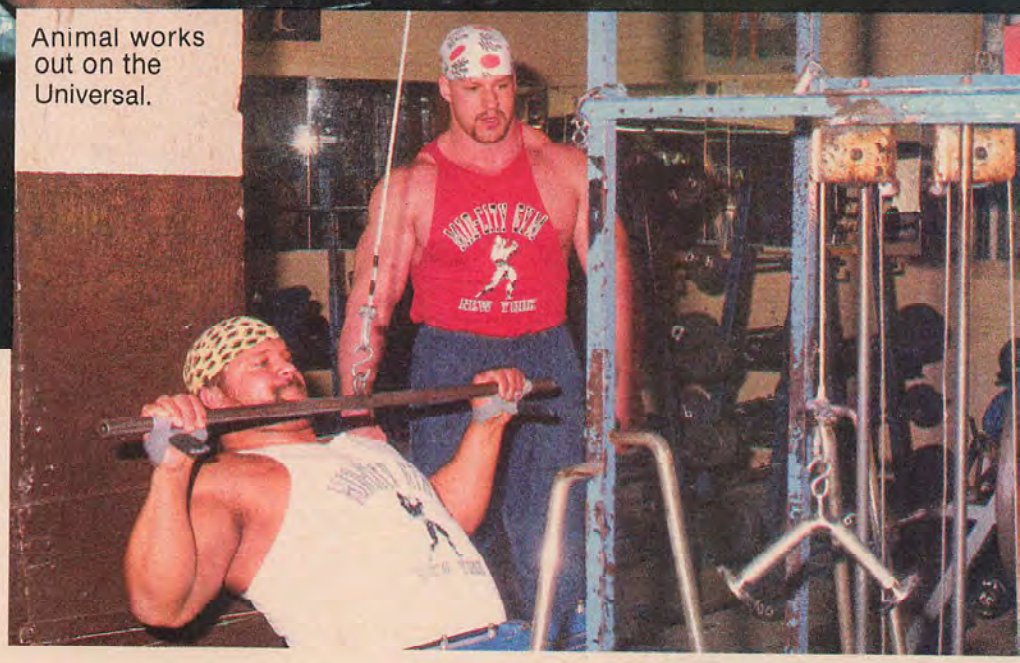
Hawk pulls down on the Universal.



Animal easily pulls the weights on the universal.

Hawk grimaces during his workout.

Animal works out on the Universal.



states as he began his workout in New York's Mid City Gym. "This is a hard core gym and not one of those sissy modern gyms. This place has the same atmosphere as the gyms we go to in Chicago. That's why whenever we're in the Big Apple we come here."

For the next sixty minutes Animal and Hawk worked on their biceps, triceps, pecks, lats, and quads. Their dedication, determination and discipline were evident as each took the time to diligently perform each routine. "My men have been doing this since their early teens." Precious Paul Ellering stated, "And they're still at it today and every day for that matter. Can you name any other wrestlers as dedicated as these two? I don't want to sound like I'm bragging but we deserve all the praise and accolades that have been bestowed on us. No one else does it better."

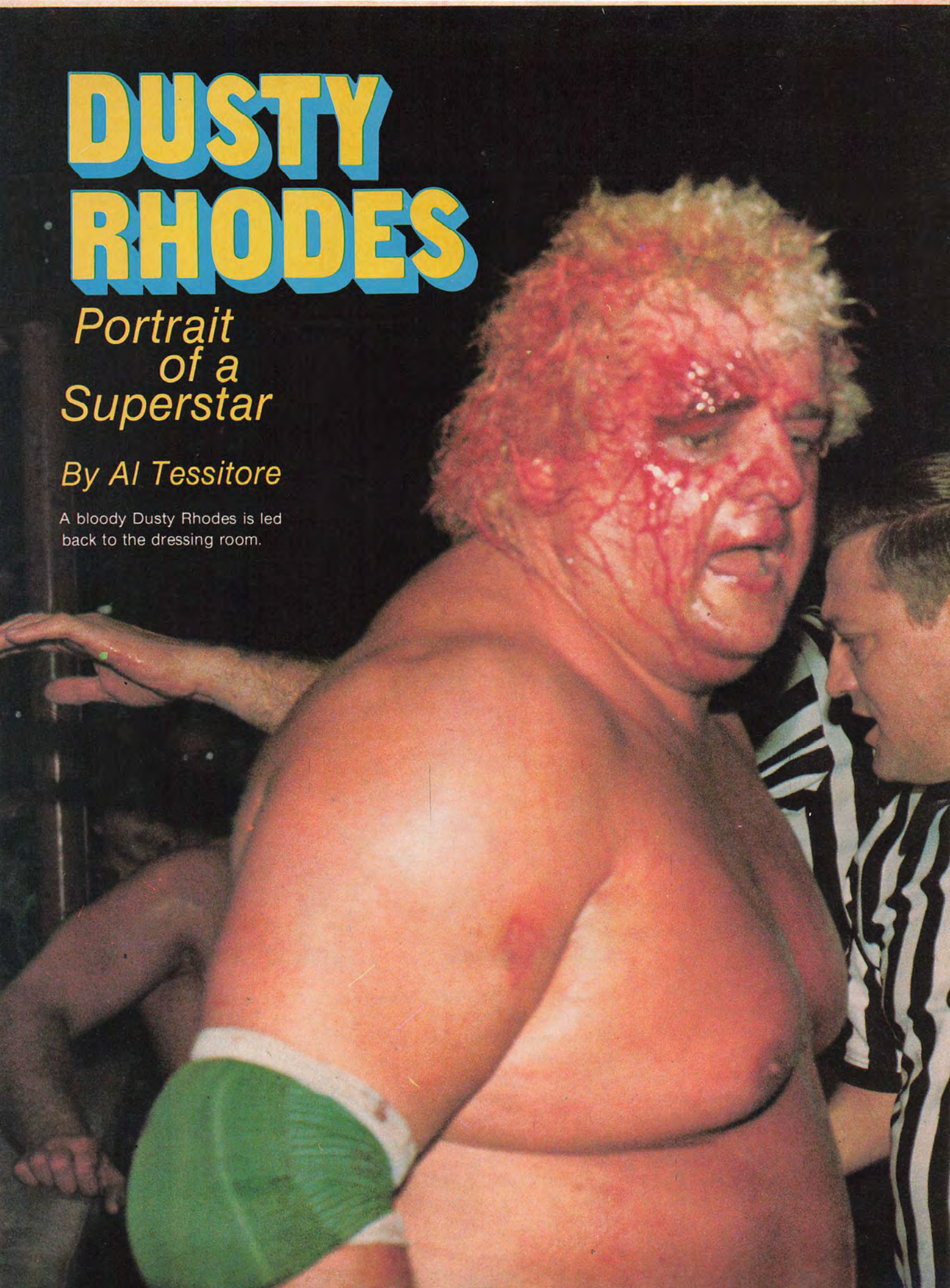
Reporter Kathy Novak and a crew from Sports Channel were also on hand to record the Road Warriors workout for the Sports Channel Cable Network. "I've heard a lot of different things about wrestlers but these two guys are serious about their profession," Ms. Novak remarked as Animal and Hawk quietly went about their routines. "I've never seen anyone so dedicated as these two in my life."

The Road Warriors are indeed dedicated professionals with one goal in mind: to be the best at what they do. It's obvious that they've already reached that pinacle!

DUSTY RHODES

Portrait of a Superstar

By Al Tessitore



A bloody Dusty Rhodes is led back to the dressing room.

Throughout the years, Dusty Rhodes has stayed near the top of the wrestling game due to his ability to make things happen no matter where he appears. No matter if it's singles matches, tag team matches or battle royals, the "American Dream" thrills fans and angers fellow wrestlers by always managing to come out on top one way or the other.

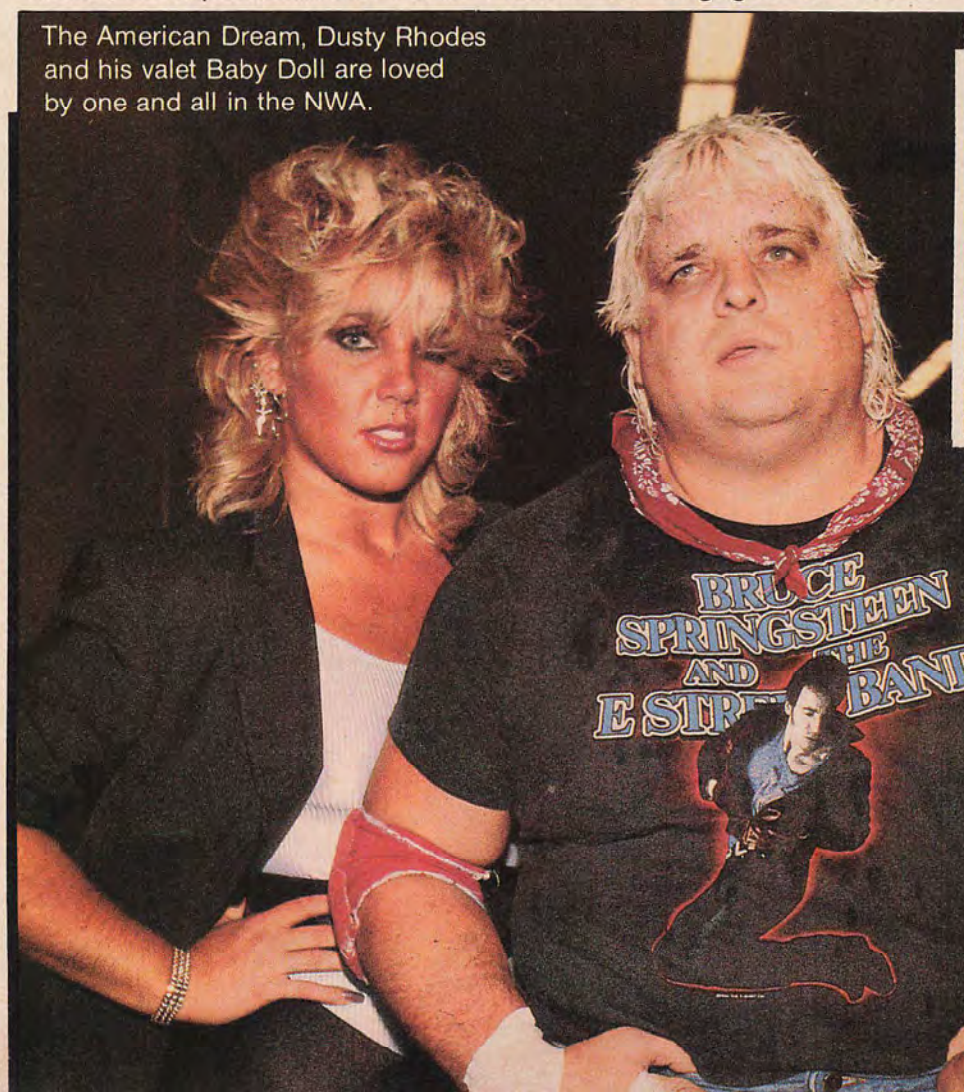
Rhodes started out his career as a villainous member of the infamous "Texas Outlaws" with Dick Murdoch. Known then as "Dirty Dusty Rhodes," he created mayhem from one coast to the other as the Outlaws captured title after title in some of the bloodiest battles ever seen. Their specialties were the bunkhouse match, bullrope match and Texas tornado match, which they executed with precision in defense of their belts.

Somewhere along the way, Rhodes changed his philosophy about life, and he began adhering to the rules instead of flagrantly disregarding them. The minute this metamorphasis occurred, Rhodes was immediately forgiven by the fans and adopted as their new found hero. Another part of the change involved his interviews, where he went from being quiet to boisterous. Rhodes now gives some of the most humorous and long-winded interviews in the sport, leaving many chuckling at their conclusion.

There isn't an area of the nation where Rhodes has not achieved some sort of success, either by winning a title or driving a hated villain out of town. Rhodes' favorite place in the world is Florida, where he engaged in heated battles years ago with Kevin Sullivan's Satanic sect. During his time in Florida, Rhodes has held the Florida Heavyweight championship and also the Florida Tag Team championship, to become one of the all-time dominant forces in Florida wrestling.

Although he loves Florida, Rhodes has enjoyed his greatest success in the area known as World Championship Wrestling. Some of the titles Rhodes has held while wrestling in this area are the NWA World Heavyweight championship (which he has held twice), the NWA World Tag Team championship, NWA World Television championship and the National Heavyweight championship. These triumphs have made Rhodes a wanted man by many area badmen who aim to put him on the injured list while making a name for themselves.

If this area has brought Rhodes



The American Dream, Dusty Rhodes and his valet Baby Doll are loved by one and all in the NWA.

Rhodes and Baby Doll hold an impromptu meeting.

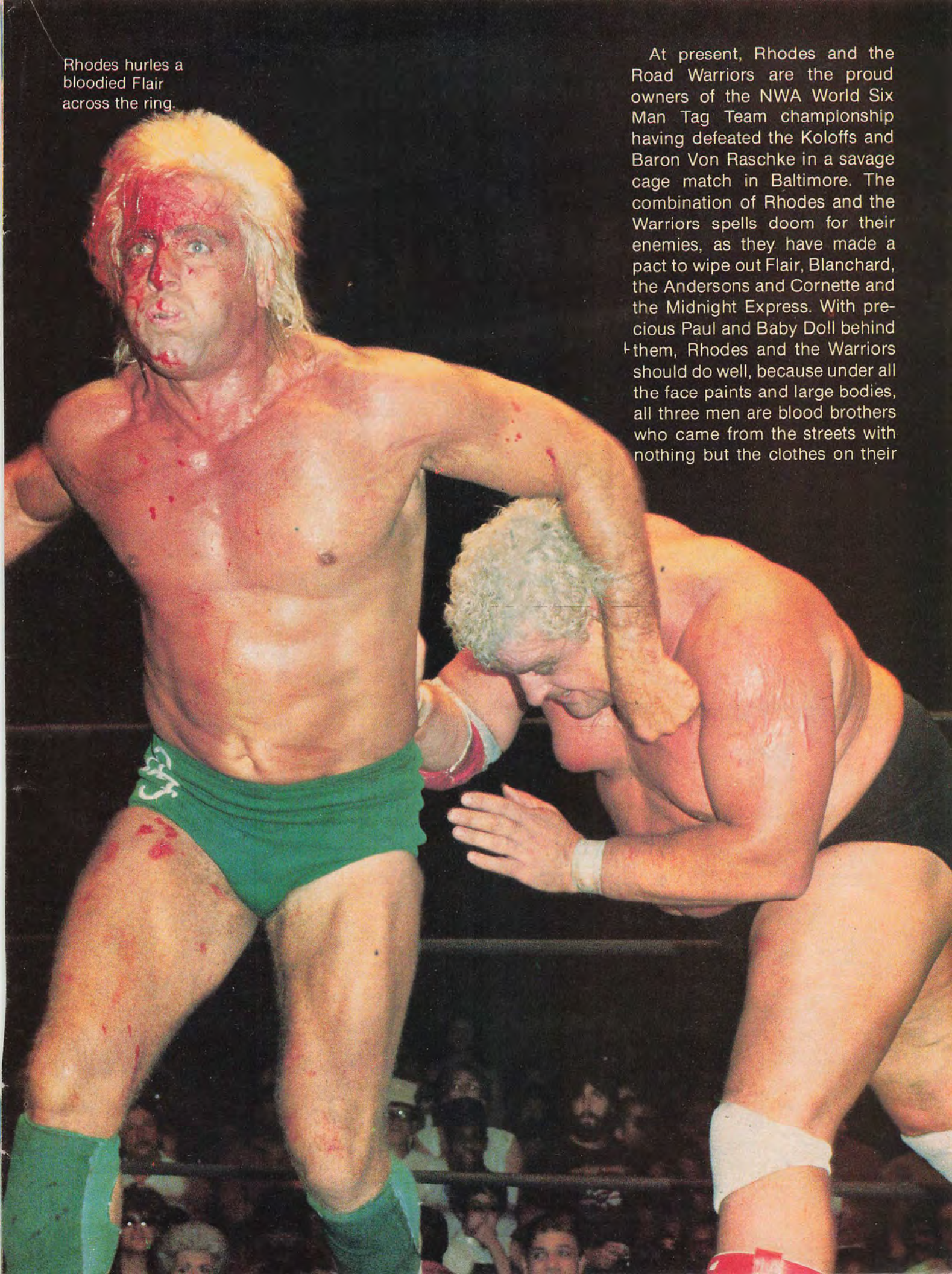
his greatest success over the years, it has also brought him his greatest sorrows. Last year, Rhodes jumped into the ring to save NWA World Champion Ric Flair from a beating he was receiving from the Russians. For his efforts, Rhodes was sneak attacked by Flair and Ole and Arn Anderson. Together the three cousins broke Rhodes' ankle, forcing him to surrender his Television belt since he could not defend it.

Undaunted by the injury, Rhodes bounced back stronger than ever, going after Arn and Flair with more intensity than he has shown in years. Although he came up short, Rhodes taught them a lesson by breaking Ole's leg, putting him out of wrestling for six months and sending shivers up the spines of his enemies. By playing their game to perfection, Rhode showed he can take it and dish it out too.

Rhodes picked up even more fans when he rescued Baby Doll from Tully Blanchard, after he slapped her on national television. But this momentary joy turned sour when he was forced to watch Jim Cornette and the Midnight Express severely injure her, when they jammed a tennis racket into her stomach. This uncalled for attack has prompted Rhodes and Magnum T.A. to launch an all-out war against the Midnight Express, for revenge,

The American Dream, Dusty Rhodes snaps the sleeper on Ric Flair.

Rhodes' elbow smash sends Ric Flair flying.



Rhodes hurles a bloodied Flair across the ring.

At present, Rhodes and the Road Warriors are the proud owners of the NWA World Six Man Tag Team championship having defeated the Koloffs and Baron Von Raschke in a savage cage match in Baltimore. The combination of Rhodes and the Warriors spells doom for their enemies, as they have made a pact to wipe out Flair, Blanchard, the Andersons and Cornette and the Midnight Express. With precious Paul and Baby Doll behind them, Rhodes and the Warriors should do well, because under all the face paints and large bodies, all three men are blood brothers who came from the streets with nothing but the clothes on their

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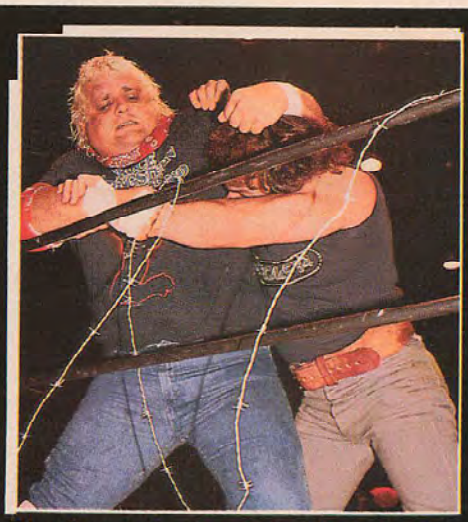
backs. Each has an undying will to survive, which has propelled them to the heights they enjoy today.

In many ways, no one talks a better fight than Rhodes, but then again no one backs up that tough talk with equally tough action like Rhodes does. Flair, Hulk Hogan, Jesse Ventura and a lot of other flashy talkers of today owe a tremendous debt to Rhodes, who paved the way years ago with his fur coat, sequined robes and off-beat style. His grit, determination, honesty and down to earth nature have all combined to make Dusty Rhodes one of the most popular and successful wrestlers of all time. He's young enough to capture more titles and glory before he rides off into the Texas sunset. But that's a long way off, so even if one day the "American Dream" does leave, he will never be forgotten. His legacy will live on in the hearts of the young competitors who are following in his footsteps.

The Dream is about to send Ole Anderson sailing over the ropes.



The Dream battles Tully Blanchard during a wild barbed wire brawl.

THE FABULOUS FREEBIRDS

Take a Stroll Down Bad Street

By Debra Carlton

The Fabulous Freebirds are one of the premier teams in the sport.

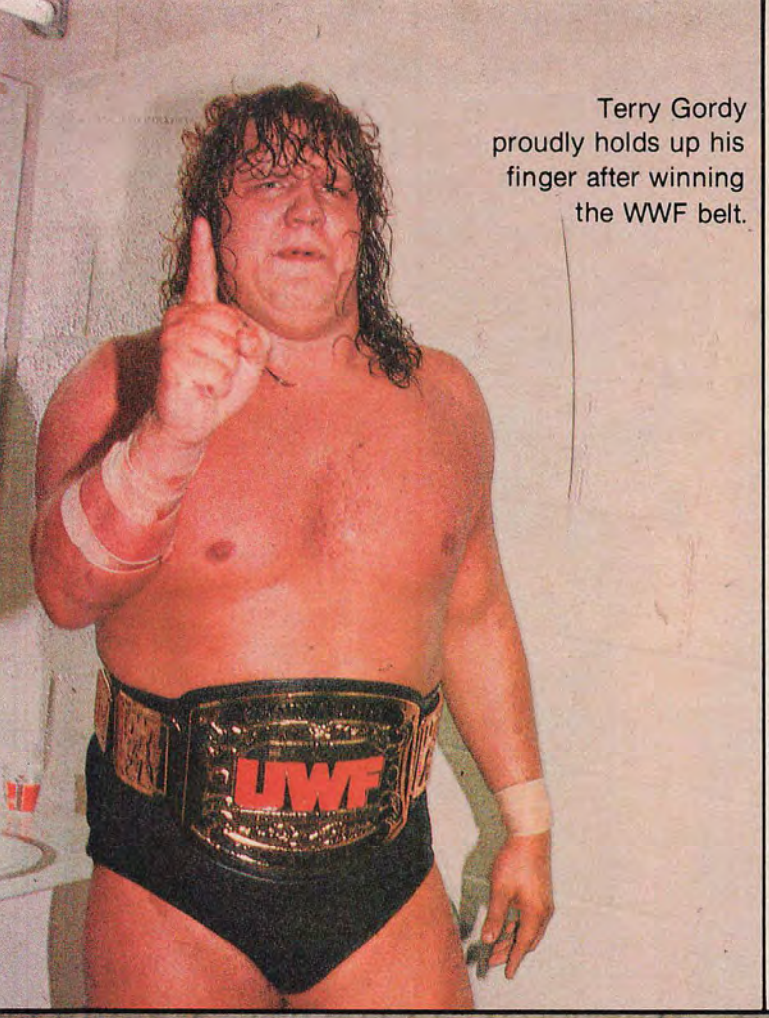
People either like them or they can't stand them, but no one is indifferent to the Fabulous Freebirds. In a contract move that has been rumored to involve a cool seven figure sum, the Freebirds have wasted no time making their presence felt in the UWF. Armed with their latest video, ZZ Top's "Can't Stop Rocking," the sequel to Hayes' incomparable "Bad Street," the 'Birds have rocked the foundations of the old Mid-South federation and declared war on whoever is unlucky enough to get in their way.

The Freebirds don't have any particular prejudice about their adversaries. Whoever steps into the ring with one of the stands in the ring against all of them and had better be prepared to take the consequences of an uninvited stroll down Bad Street.

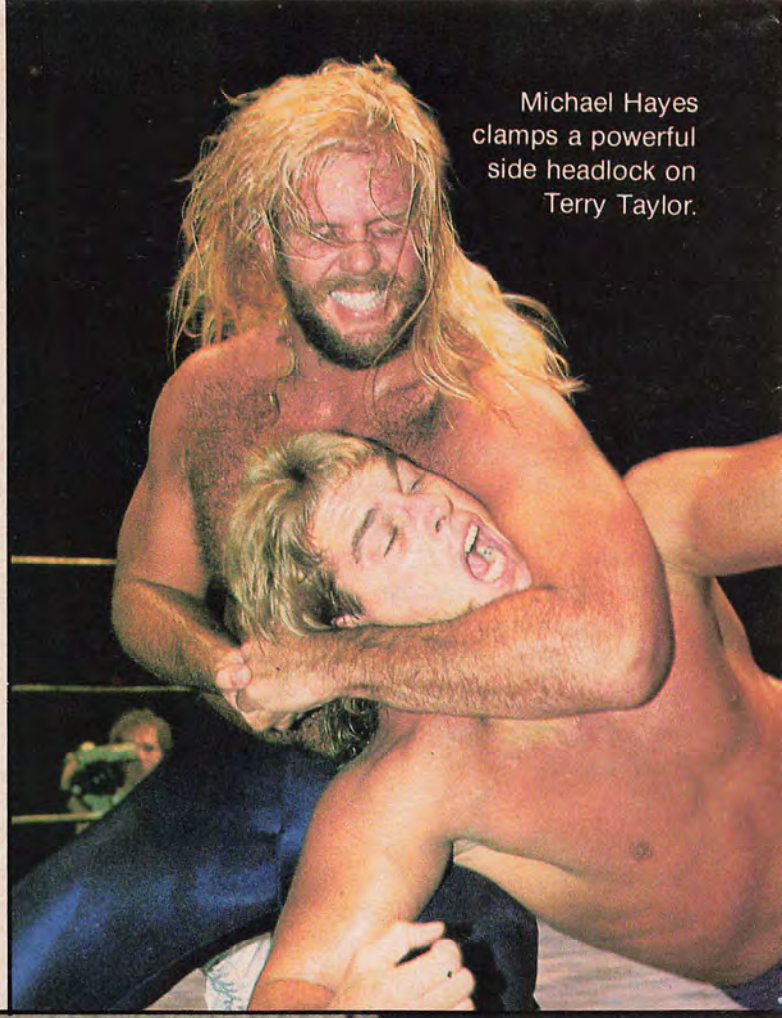
Immediately after entering the UWF, the 'Birds incurred the wrath of the fans by confronting their enemy of old, Ted Di Biase. That wouldn't be so bad, except that in the time since the 'Birds and Di Biase last met, Di Biase has undergone a change and become a hero to the fans. According to Freebird logic, the 'Birds believe that if they drop Di Biase on his head it will unscramble his brains and set him straight again. At any rate, the battle with Di biase is just the beginning.

The return of Cowboy Bill Watts to the ring has resulted in Michael Hayes, leader of the 'Birds, doing the color commentary at ringside. Now Hayes makes a good commentator. He calls the match fairly, giving credit to whoever deserves it, fan-favorite or rulebreaker. It's when he adds his opinion to the commentary that people start getting

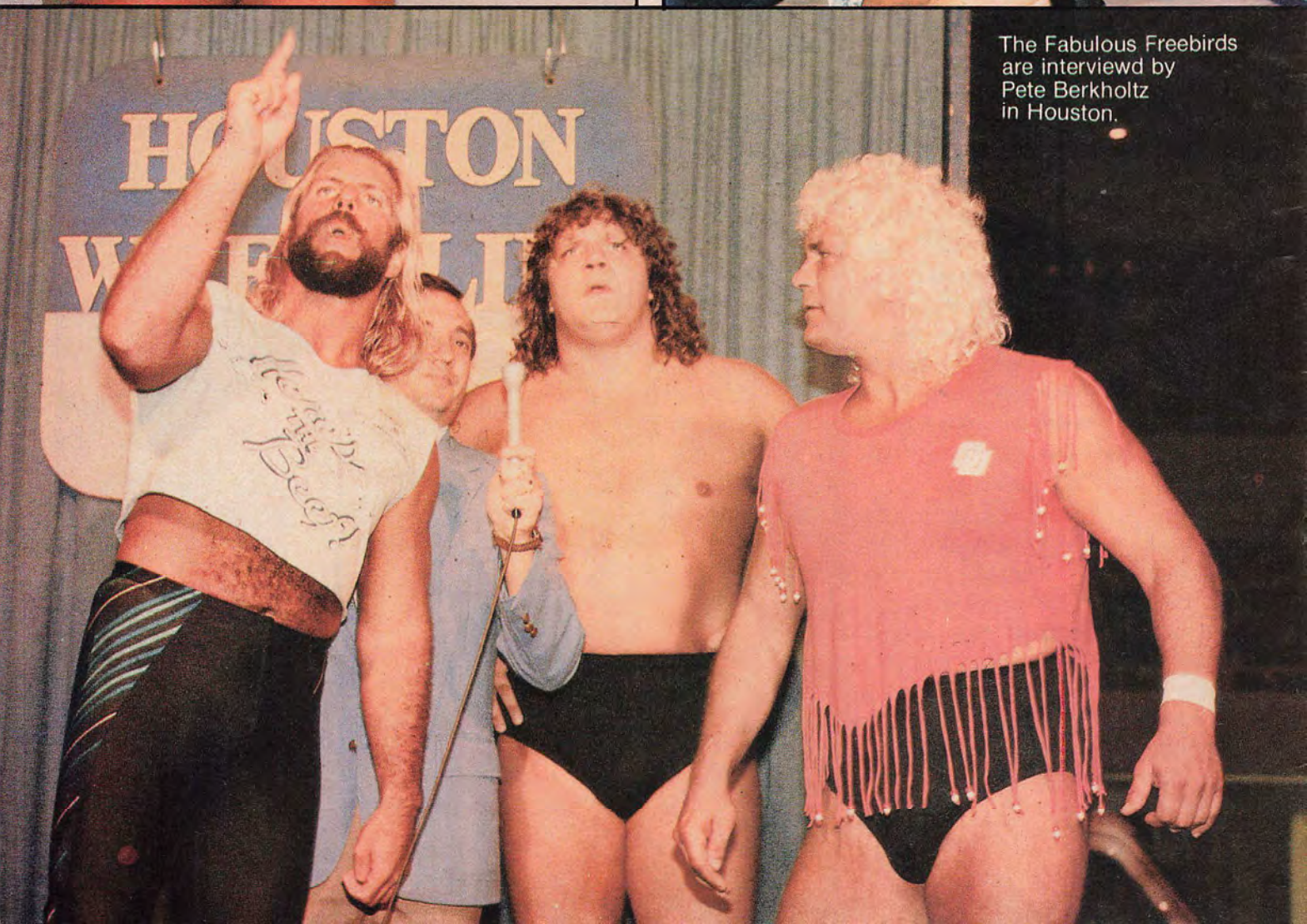
Terry Gordy catches Lance Von Erich in an abdominal stretch.



Terry Gordy proudly holds up his finger after winning the WWF belt.



Michael Hayes clamps a powerful side headlock on Terry Taylor.

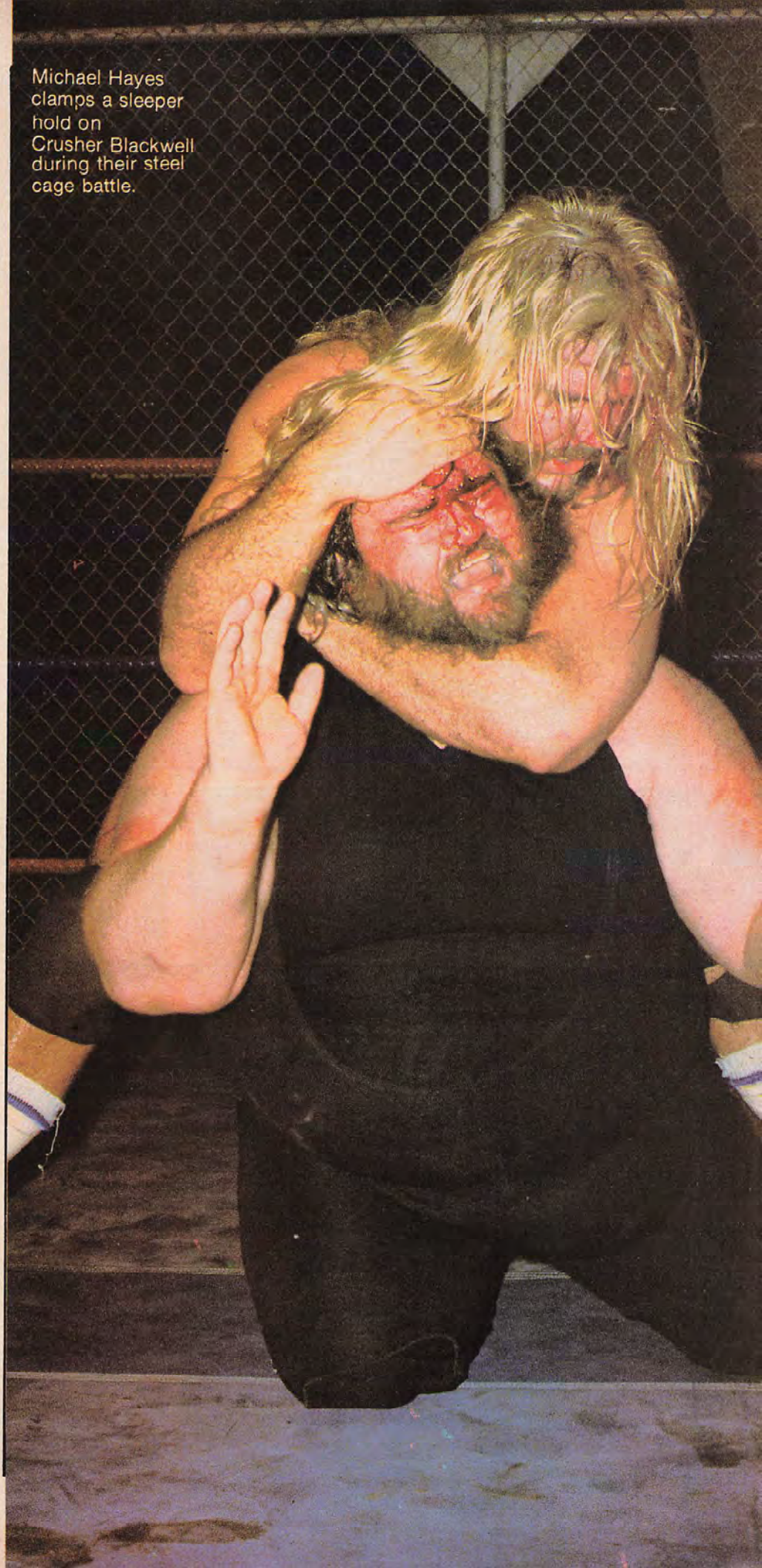


The Fabulous Freebirds are interviewd by Pete Berkholtz in Houston.

excited. The fans don't always agree with Michael's personal views of the wrestlers he is commenting on and neither do the other wrestlers. That doesn't bother Hayes too much though. One thing about him, he is an original. As for Buddy Roberts, he is the smallest of the Freebirds, but they are all big men. At times his size belies his talent, but he has talent and many have found that out to their misfortune. Buddy is a good rulebreaker, who has a wrestling style which is highly unusual. He breaks the rules straight up but without making excuses or trying to hide it. Roberts will look you straight in the eye and tell you that rulebreakers are not always the bad guys. Given the number of brawlers in different alliances that enjoy the status of fan-favorite, one is inclined to agree with him.

When Freebirds Hayes and Roberts flew into the UWF, Terry "Bam-Bam" Gordy was on tour in Japan. It was when the biggest Bird returned stateside that the Freebirds really shook the UWF. After the old Mid-South alliance became the new UWF, then champion "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan agreed to retire the North American belt and compete in an invitational tournament that was to be held in Houston to determine the new Universal Wrestling Federation Heavyweight Champion. Many insiders and most of the fans thought that Duggan would simply be exchanging the old belt for a new one, but they underestimated the big gun from Bad Street. Gordy fought four matches that night and when the dust cleared it was "Bam-Bam" that walked away with not only the new belt, but the $100,000 grand prize as well.

In the first round, it was a battle of the birds as Freebird Gordy

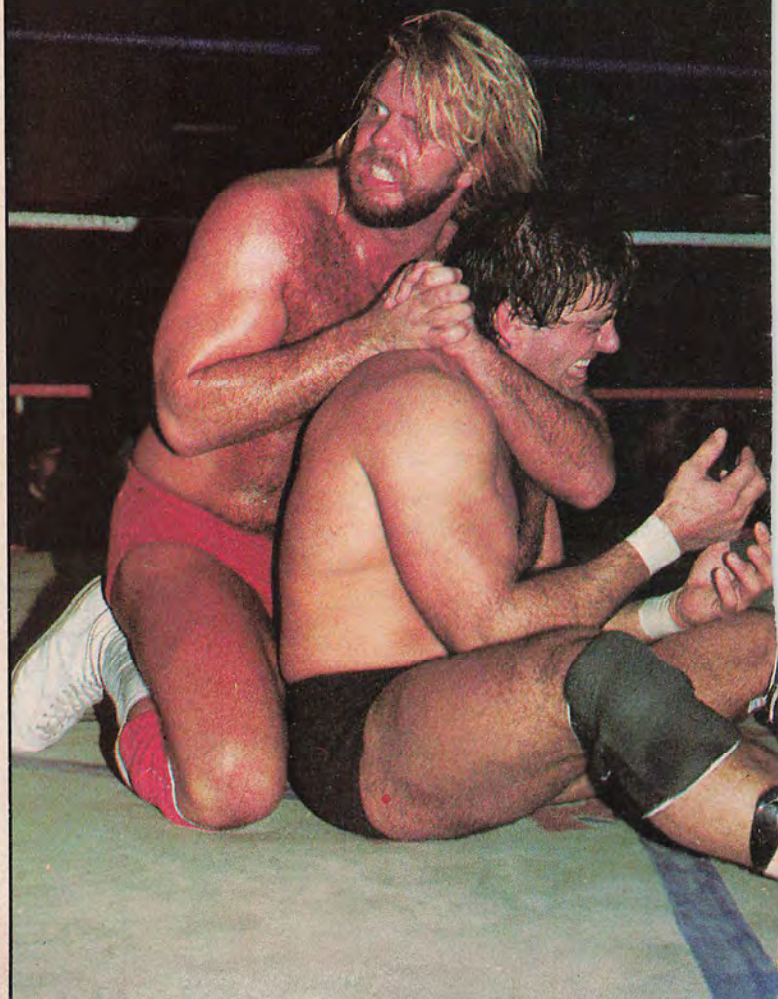


Michael Hayes clamps a sleeper hold on Crusher Blackwell during their steel cage battle.

Michael Hayes has Rick Martel at a disadvantage during their championship bout.

Hayes catches Terry Taylor in a standing headlock.

Hayes has a side headlock on Rick Martel.



disposed of the "Birdman" Koko B. Ware. Second round action saw Di Biase go down, while Steve "Dr. Death" Williams saw the shiny side of some brass knuckles in the third. The final match of the evening and the one that would determine the new champion was to be between Gordy and Jim Duggan. Duggan had defeated Kamala earlier in the evening and had just finished an unscheduled bout with the One Man Gang, who had stormed into the ring, angry at the world for not being invited to compete in the tournament. Duggan put the behemoth down, but in the process, suffered a severe head injury.

While Freebird Terry Gordy fumed in the middle of the ring, the officials allowed the injured fan-favorite five minutes to rest before having to face his furious challenger. Give Duggan credit—he tried. Terry Gordy is a big man and a very talented wrestler. Duggan would have to be in peak condition to have a chance at taking Gordy, but that night in Houston he was in no shape to face the baddest of the 'Birds, even without the interference from Michael Hayes. A piledriver put Duggan away and it was a parade down Bad Street as Gordy received the prize money and the shiny new UWF belt.

Things are really stirred up in the UWF now. The result of the tournament does not set well with the fans, and now the Freebirds are wanted men. Grapplers such as Duggan, Terry Taylor, Di Biase and Williams will be after the 'Birds, seeking retaliation for the tournament, and shots at the new belt will be demanded as their due. These guys need to remember one thing. Chasing the Fabulous Freebirds is one thing, it's what happens after you catch them that's dangerous. For those that are invited to walk down Bad Street it's a pleasant experience, but for those that stray onto the street without an engraved invitation, it's a trip through hell.

The Fabulous Freebirds make their way to the ring.

Are the ROCK & ROLL EXPRESS *Headed for Splitsville?*

By Paul Redding

As Robert Gibson holds Ivan, Morton jumps off the rope and takes aim.

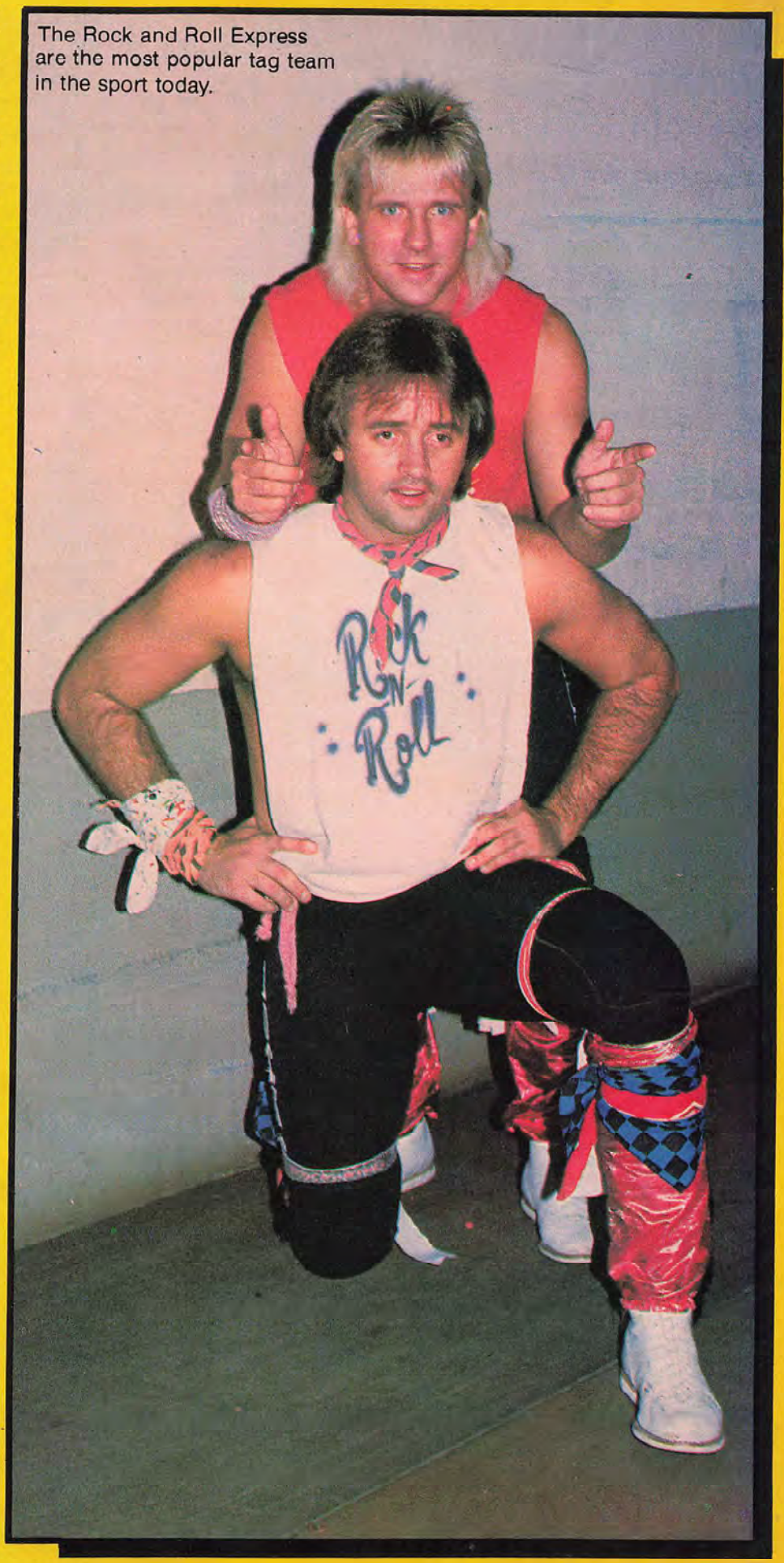
Ricky Morton and Robert Gibson can be found sharing dressing rooms, motel accomodations and dinner reservations. They continue to fly together and appear in the same arenas. Yet the high-flying duo have *not* been working side by side within the squared circle as much as they had in the past.

It's true that one is never very far away from the other; while one is in the ring the other is either standing in the wings or assuring that things are under control from ringside. But what's going on guys?

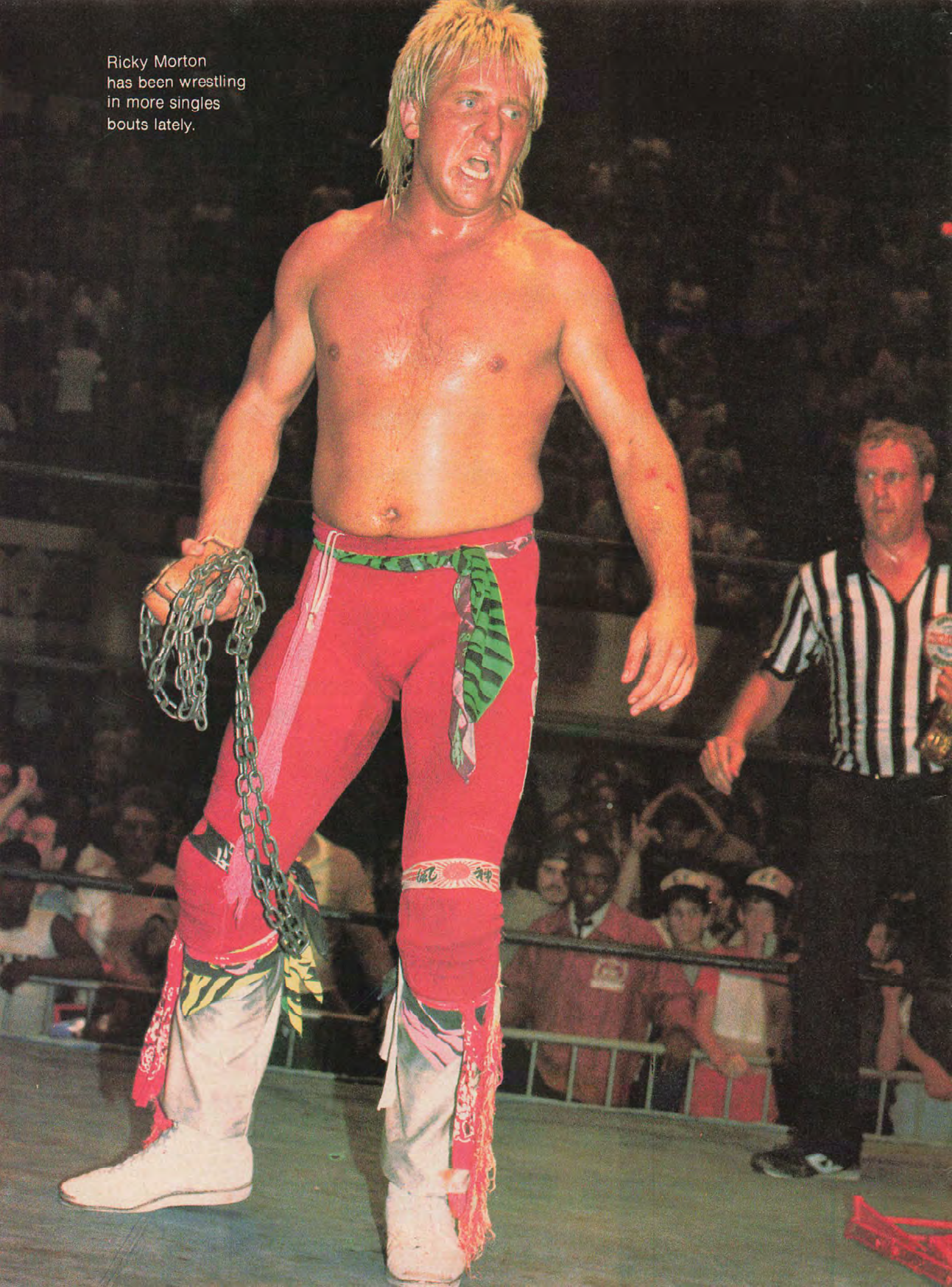
Another point worthy of mention, is that it has been quite some time since the two have held a joint title. It has become an almost expected situation — that the Rock-n-Rollers' rule in such a manner. For years, no matter the territory, they have always scaled the ranks of talent to assume the seat of champions. Yet it has been months since they held the NWA World Tag titles, and now they seem farther away from regaining them than every before.

When the R-n-R Express arrived in NWA territory, they set their sights on the belts held by some of the toughest contenders in the sport: Nikita and Ivan Koloff. Their raw instincts to persevere played as much a part in their ultimate victory against the Russian team as did their extraordinary talent and ability. But, their win did not go unchallenged. The Russians felt they had been insulted and struck back with vengeance. The titles went back to the U.S.S.R. contingents before being recaptured by the Rock-Roll.

Battles such as this one tend to sap the mental energies as well as the physical powers of its participants. So when the attentions of Ivan and Nikita were finally drawn elsewhere it was a relief to Morton and Gibson. But their



The Rock and Roll Express are the most popular tag team in the sport today.



Ricky Morton has been wrestling in more singles bouts lately.

hopes for a brief interlude in which to regain their perspectives were not to be realized.

The waters had not yet calmed before they were again churned to tidal wave proportions by the arrival of Jim Cornette and his Midnight Express, Dennis Condrey and Bobby Eaton. Morton became the focus of their attention. They believed that by breaking Ricky, who is the stronger of the twosome, their victory would then be sure and easy. Robert is, of course, just as strong physically, and is as capable and talented as Ricky, but he lends himself more to the role of follower than that of leader. Morton is definitely the extrovert and driving force of the Rock-n-Roll Express. He meets head-on each and every assault. Therefore, the Express thought, if they could put the director out of action, the show would have to close.

Their attempts to injure Morton were successful. He was repeatedly beaten and bruised by Cornette's tennis racket. Yet the battle continued until Cornette finally rallied enough deceit, cunning and treachery to defeat them—outside the rules. And so, regardless of the method, they took the seat of World Tag Champions from the Rock-n-Roll Express.

But a chance to regain their fame was not long in coming for the Rock-n-Rollers. It came in the form of the first annual Jim Crockett Memorial Tag Team Tournament. Even with the Road Warriors in contention the team of Morton and Gibson looked good and were given better than even odds of taking home the prize. But amazingly they didn't even make it through the first round of competition.

Their match was with the Sheepherders, with flag bearer, Jack Victory at ringside. While it was a classic example of out-and-out robbery — that fact didn't change the outcome. They went down on a disqualification. Morton had his opponent down

Dennis Condrey twists Morton's arm as Jim Cornette clobbers him with his tennis racket.

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Morton twists Wild Bill Irwin's neck.

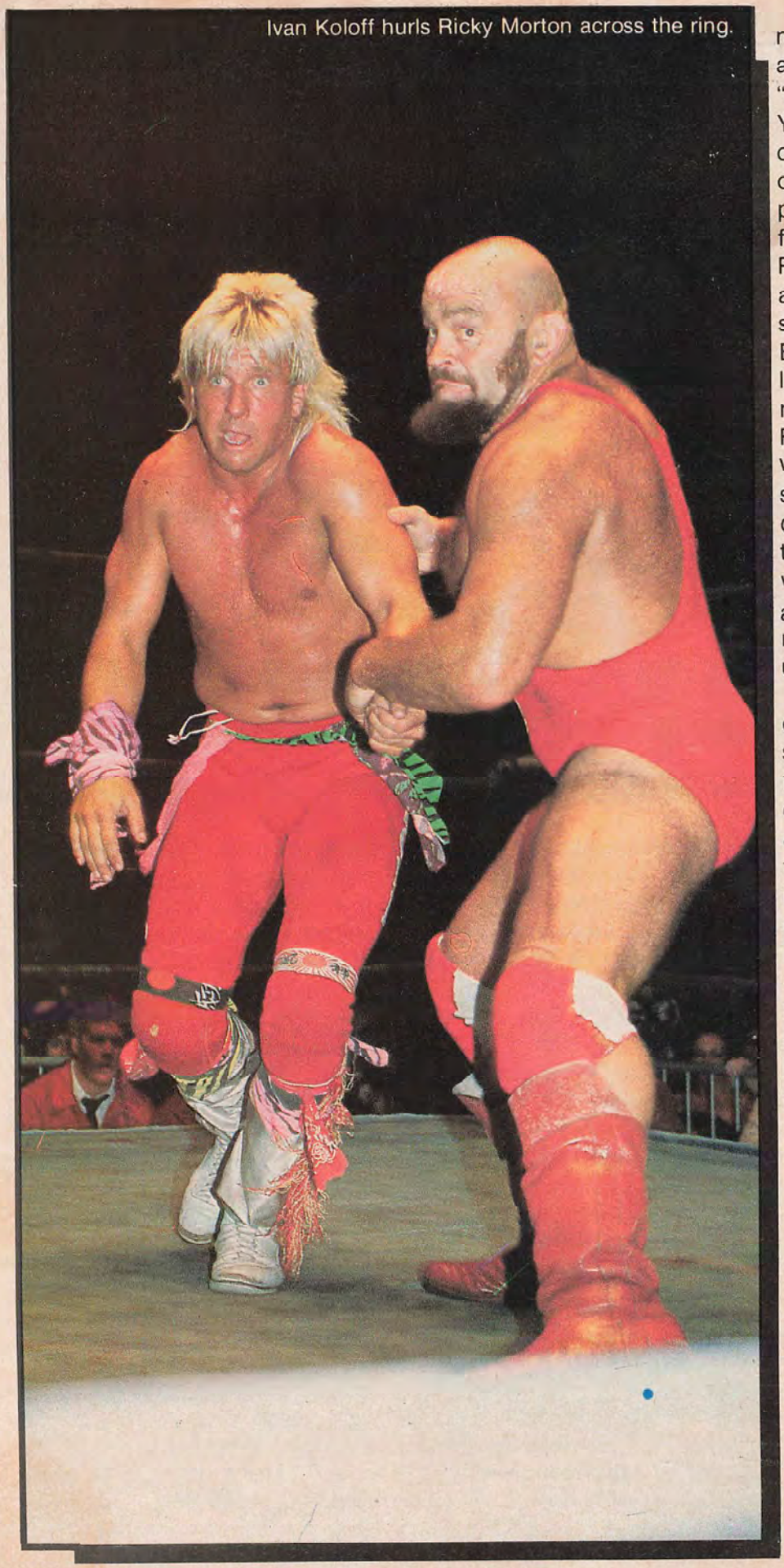
for the pin when Victory jumped into the ring and went after him with the flag pole. Morton came at him like a mad man, grabbing the intended weapon and swinging wildly at Victory. Morton earned a DQ for his team without the referee even questioning Victory's illegal presence in the ring. Such are the breaks of the profession.

But now the Rock-n-Roll success as one of the nation's top teams has come to a screeching halt. The past six months has seen them battle personal injury, bad calls and constant controversy. Any of these is enough to cause stress on a team, but all of them at the same time would surely have seen the violent parting of ways for most competitors. And, while there has been no outward appearance of trouble between the two, it's undeniable that they've been in far more single matches than team events of late.

As if things weren't bad enough, Ric Flair, the master planner, has begun his own campaign to split and destroy the pair. Knowing Morton's tendency to strike back, he began to verbally insult not only the team, but the fans who support them. And as expected, Morton answered Flair's accusations in the ring.

Unfortunately Ricky Morton got more than he ever bargained for. While wrestling the champion, Morton, sensing victory well within his grasp, mounted the top rope and delivered a devasting drop kick. The force of Morton's kick knocked Flair to the mat and the referee out of the ring. Ricky immediately jumped on Flair for the pin but the referee was nowhere to be found. Seizing this golden opportunity Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard jumped into the ring and began to maul Ricky Morton. While Arn and Tully held Morton's face down on the mat, Ric Flair repeatedly kicked Morton in the head. Then Flair jumped off the rope and hit Morton with one of his patented knee drops. Morton's nose was squashed right into the mat. Finally, Robert Gibson, Magnum T.A. and Ronnie Garvin and several other wrestlers ran to Ricky's aid but by then it was too late. The damage had already been done. Ricky Morton's nose was broken. The following week Ricky appeared on the Superstation, WTBS with his nose heavily bandaged. In his hand Morton held a plexiglass face mask similar to a hockey player's face mask and vowed to get revenge on Ric Flair.

But where does this leave Robert Gibson? And what can we expect next from the Rock-n-Roll Express?



Ivan Koloff hurls Ricky Morton across the ring.

Both men contend that there is not now, nor has there ever been any problems between them. "Rock-n-Roll is not separated. You cannot take one form the other. We have had differences on a singles basis with other people, that's all, and those difference need taking care of—like Flair. But we will be back together and together we create a lot of stormy weather. The Midnight Express had better be on the lookout because the clouds are movin' in fast and dark. And Rick Flair and his henchmen will get what they deserve too. We've had some bad breaks, but we're not one of your 'here today and gone tomorrow' teams, and I think we've proved that. We've been around a long time and there ain't nothin' or nobody that can keep us down."

But, according to observers close to the scene, unless the situation is halted soon, and the fire is reignited, the team of R-n-R could very well become shaky and acquire some dark clouds of their own. Sooner or later a team is bound to lose the desire to compete. And how many beatings can a man be expected to endure for a cause not related directly to his own personal safety?

Within the next few months, predictions are that if the present circumstances end, the Rock-n-Roll Express may not be able to repair the damage it has recently suffered. Hopefully, things will bind them together rather than tear them apart. At their best, they are an exciting, capable and talented team, which never fails to thrill an audience with their high-flying skills and quick recoveries.

Good Luck Ricky and Robert. We can only hope things will be looking up soon.

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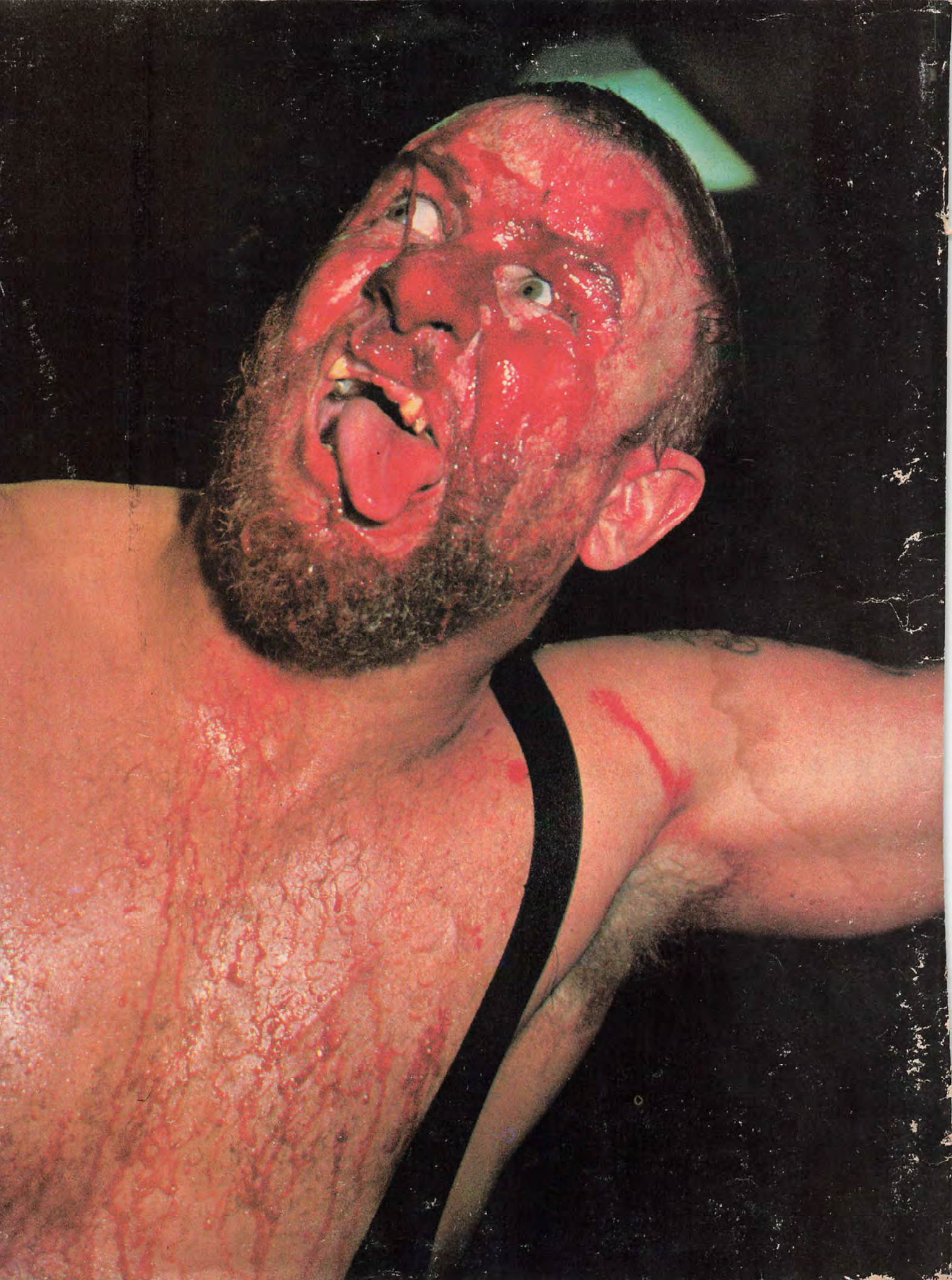

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